

# CROATIA

## Third National Report

### CONTENTS

Information on the preparation of the report .....	3
B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES .....	5
Priority Setting.....	6
Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation.....	7
2010 Target.....	10
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).....	64
Ecosystem Approach.....	88
C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION .....	90
Article 5 – Cooperation.....	90
Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use .....	92
Biodiversity and Climate Change .....	96
Article 7 - Identification and monitoring.....	98
Decisions on Taxonomy .....	101
Article 8 - <i>In-situ</i> conservation [excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)].....	105
Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Article 8 (a) to (e)) .....	107
Article 8(h) - Alien species.....	111
Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions .....	116
GURTS .....	116
Status and Trends .....	117
Akwé:Kon Guidelines .....	117
Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities .....	118
Support to implementation.....	119
Article 9 - <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation.....	120
Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity.....	121
Biodiversity and Tourism.....	126
Article 11 - Incentive measures .....	128
Article 12 - Research and training .....	130
Article 13 - Public education and awareness.....	131
Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts .....	136
Article 15 - Access to genetic resources.....	140
Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology .....	143
Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.....	144
Article 17 - Exchange of information.....	147
Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation.....	148
Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits.....	151
Article 20 – Financial resources .....	152
D. THEMATIC AREAS .....	160
Inland water ecosystems .....	162
Marine and coastal biological diversity.....	165
General .....	165
Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management .....	165

Marine and Coastal Living Resources.....	167
Mariculture .....	170
Alien Species and Genotypes .....	171
Agricultural biological diversity.....	172
Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity.....	172
Forest Biological Diversity.....	177
General .....	177
Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.....	180
Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands .....	187
Mountain Biodiversity.....	189
E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION.....	193
F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT.....	195

## A. REPORTING PARTY

Contracting Party	CROATIA
<b>NATIONAL FOCAL POINT</b>	
Full name of the institution	Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate
Name and title of contact officer	Andrea Štefan, B.Sc. (Biol.) Head of Department for Strategic Planning in Nature Protection and EU Integration
Mailing address	Runjaninova 2, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
Telephone	+385 (0) 1 48 66 124
Fax	+385 (0) 1 48 66 100
E-mail	<a href="mailto:andrea.stefan@min-kulture.hr">andrea.stefan@min-kulture.hr</a>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER FOR NATIONAL REPORT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)</b>	
Full name of the institution	State Institute for Nature Protection
Name and title of contact officer	Irina Zupan, M.Sc. (Biol.) Head of the Nature Impact Assessment Department
Mailing address	Savska 41/23, 10144 Zagreb, Croatia
Telephone	+385 (0) 1 4866 195
Fax	+385 (0) 1 4866 171
E-mail	irina.zupan@dzzp.hr
<b>SUBMISSION</b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report	Zoran Šikic, B.Sc.(Forest), Assistant Minister for Nature Protection
Date of submission	07 February 2007

### Information on the preparation of the report

#### Box I.

Please provide information on the preparation of this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has granted funding for the project: *Preparation of the Third National Report on Biodiversity* for Croatia. The project started on 15th of September and lasted for six months. The project was implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on behalf of the UN and executed by the State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP). The final draft of the Third National Report to CBD was completed and delivered to the Ministry of Culture, the government body responsible for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Croatia.

Cooperation was achieved with all relevant government authorities (**Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of**

**Science, Education and Sports and Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development), county authorities (Varaždin County, Sisacko-Moslavacka County, Primorsko-Goranska County), other state institutions (Croatian Environment Agency), public institutions (National and Nature Parks Public Institutions, Croatian Waters, Croatian Forests...) academic and scientific institutions (Croatian Academy of Science and Art, Faculties and Universities in Zagreb and Osijek, Natural History Museum in Zagreb, Institute for Seed and Seedlings, Croatian Agricultural Extension Institute (CAEI), etc.), related associations and societies (Croatian Biological Society, Croatian Geological Society, Croatian Forestry Society, Croatian Mycological Society) and NGOs (Zelena akcija).**

## B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

### Box II.

Please provide an overview of the status and trends of various components of biological diversity in your country based on the information and data available.

## Priority Setting

1. Please indicate, by marking an "X" in the appropriate column below, the level of priority your country accords to the implementation of various articles, provisions and relevant programmes of the work of the Convention.

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation		X	
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use	X		
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring		X	
d) Article 8 – <i>In-situ</i> conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species		X	
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions		X	
g) Article 9 – <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation			X
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity	X		
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures		X	
j) Article 12 - Research and training		X	
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness		X	
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts	X		
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			X
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology			X
o) Article 17 - Exchange of information		X	
p) Article 18 – Scientific and technical cooperation		X	
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits			X
r) Article 20 - Financial resources			X
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism			X

t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		
u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity			X
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity		X	
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity			X
y) Mountain biodiversity		X	

### Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

2. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the provisions of the Articles of the Convention (5, 6,7, 8, 8h, 8j, 9, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Articles																		
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
a) Lack of political will and support	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	
f) Lack of	3	2	3	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	

transfer of technology and expertise																		
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	/	3
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
r) Lack of	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2



effective partnerships																		
s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	2-3
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
u) Poverty	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
v) Population pressure	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
bb) Others (please specify)																		

## 2010 Target

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/30, annex II, decided to establish a provisional framework for goals and targets in order to clarify the 2010 global target adopted by decision VI/26, help assess the progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

### Box III.

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.</b>		
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Based on the available data, the level of threat to individual habitat types represented in Croatia has been assessed, and, taking into consideration the European Habitats Directive, the Regulation on Conservation of Threatened and Rare Habitat Types has been adopted (Official Gazette 07/06). At the same time, protection of individual sites hosting threatened habitat types was implemented (at the national and European level).</p> <p>The most threatened habitat types include wetland areas as well as the karst region containing large groundwater supplies and sands identified by the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (NSAP).</p> <p>A comprehensive assessment at the national level of the existence and location of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I to the Habitats Directive, has been done in the framework of the project LIFE III/Building the National Ecological Network as part of the PEEN and NATURA 2000 (CRO-NEN). The project was carried out by the State Institute for Nature Protection (SINP) in cooperation with experts and scientists and it was finished in June 2005. The results of the project include location of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and species listed in Annex II to the Habitats Directive. The inventory of sites currently exists as a database in the SINP and it will become official upon the Governmental Decree on National Ecological Network to be enacted during 2006.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	

e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>After the Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity was adopted in 1999, highlighting the objectives to be achieved and providing an overview of the then state of biodiversity, little was achieved by 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2003 the new Nature Protection Act was adopted introducing the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity into Croatian legislation. Nature protection was defined as the protection and conservation of the overall biological and landscape diversity. The new Nature Protection Act, which was adopted in 2005 represents a finalisation of the 2003 Act.</li> <li>• In addition to the special protection of particular areas and species, the measures for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity are being incorporated into all sectors and activities which in any way use biological resources (nature protection, water management, mining, forestry, hunting, fishery, physical planning...). Therefore, in the light of sustainable development, nature protection has expanded from covering the existing less than 10% of protected territory to the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia. The 2003 Act was almost completely harmonised with the EU directives related to nature protection (the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC)). It has substantially broadened the scope of administrative and expertise tasks in nature protection. In 2005 a new Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/05) was adopted, which became effective on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2005. The 2005 Act follows the same concept of protection of the overall biological and landscape diversity of Croatia and represents an offprint of the previous Nature Protection Act, amending certain details which proved not to be viable in practice. The provisions of the 2003 Nature Protection Act referring to genetically modified organisms were singled out in a separate GMO Act (Official Gazette 70/05).</li> <li>• For a full application of the Nature Protection Act a number of subordinate acts need to be adopted. Regulations that have been adopted up to date include the Regulation on the content, form and method of issuing an official card and badge of nature protection inspector (Official Gazette 110/05); the Regulation on the sorts of natural habitat types, habitat map, threatened and rare habitat types as well as on conservation measures for habitat types (Official Gazette 07/06); the Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa (Official Gazette 07/06) and the Regulation on transborder trade in protected species (Official Gazette 34/06); whereas the subordinate legislation concerning the ecological network and the evaluation of admissibility of the intervention for nature are under preparation. Also, the new Forest Act and the new Hunting Act have been adopted.</li> <li>• In 2006 the revision of the NSAP and the adoption of a new Strategy are planned, which should present, along with the current legal basis, a foundation for further protection of nature and sustainable use, in compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The process of institutional strengthening is also under way. The State Institute for Nature Protection was founded and started working in 2002 and it was envisaged as the central expert institution in nature protection which should coordinate further integrated inventorying and monitoring of biological diversity and assist to protect other valuable nature parts of the Republic of Croatia. The drafting/revision of the strategy and plans related to the development of islands, rural development and the conservation of genetic resources is under way.</li> <li>• Hunting Act (Official Gazette 140/05)</li> </ul>			

- Forest Act (Official Gazette 140/05)

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

- The Nature Protection Act has defined nine categories of protected areas (Strict Nature Reserve, National Park, Special Nature Reserve, Nature Park, Regional Park, Nature Monument, Important Landscape, Forest Park and Park Architecture Monument). These categories are compatible and brought in line with the corresponding internationally recognised IUCN categories.
- According to the Register of Protected Natural Assets of the Ministry of Culture (the status as of 7th June 2006), in the Republic of Croatia there is a total of 446 protected areas designated in various categories (Table 1). Today the total surface of protected areas in Croatia amounts to 512,481.16 hectares or 5.85% of the total territory of Croatia or 9.05% of the mainland of Croatia. The major part of the protected area consists of national and nature parks (4.55% of the overall national territory). All Croatian counties have at least one protected area designated. Larger protected areas are distributed throughout all 4 Croatian biogeographic regions (alpine, continental, mediterranean and pannonian). Both strict reserves are in the mountain part of Croatia (alpine biogeographic region). All national parks are in the karst region of Croatia (alpine and/or mediterranean biogeographic region). Nature parks are distributed in all biogeographic regions

Table 1. An overview of protected areas in Croatia. Source: Protected Natural Values Register, Ministry of culture of the Republic of Croatia, status on 7 th of June 2006

CATEGORY	NUMBER	SURFACE (ha)	% OF STATE TERRITORY
STRICT RESERVE	2	2.395,35	0.027
NATIONAL PARK	8	93.181,48	1.063
SPECIAL RESERVE	78	27.796,50	0.317
NATURE PARK	10	305.864,38	3.489
REGIONAL PARK	0	0	0
NATURAL MONUMENT	104	762,60	0.009
IMPORTANT LANDSCAPE	71	72.467,08	0.827
FOREST PARK	38	9.051,95	0.103
HORTICULTURAL MONUMENT	135	961,82	0.011
<b>Ukupno</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>512.481,16</b>	<b>5,846</b>

Table 2. Strict Reserves, National Parks and Nature Park in Croatia. SR - Strict Reserve; NP- National Park, Np- Nature Park, PP -Preventive protection. Source: Protected Natural Values Register, Ministry of culture of the Republic of Croatia, status on 7 th of June 2006

PROTECTED AREA	Year of designation	Surface (ha)	Biogeographical region
SR Bijele i Samarske stijene	1985.	1.175	alpine
SR Rožanski i Hajdučki kukovi	1969.	1.220	alpine

NP Brijuni	1983.	3.395	mediterranean
NP Kornati	1980.	21.700	mediterranean
NP Krka	1985.	10.900	mediterranean
NP Mljet	1960.	5.375	mediterranean
NP Paklenica	1949.	9.600	mediterranean & alpine
NP Plitvicka jezera	1949.	29.482	alpine
NP Risnjak	1953.	6.400	alpine
NP Sjeverni Velebit	1999.	10.900	mediterranean & alpine
Np Biokovo	1981.	19.550	mediterranean
Np Kopacki rit	1967.	23.894	pannonian
Np Lastovo otocje / archipelago	PP 2005.	19.583	mediterranean
Np Lonjsko polje	1990.	50.600	continental
Np Medvednica	1981.	22.826	continental
Np Papuk	1999.	33.600	continental
Np Telašćica	1988.	7.050	mediterranean
Np Ucka	1999.	16.000	mediterranean & continental
Np Velebit	1981.	200.000	mediterranean & alpine
Np Vransko jezero	1999.	5.700	mediterranean
Np Žumberak-Samoborsko gorje	1999.	33.300	continental

- Inventorying of habitats within the protected areas has not been completed so the data on the percentage of protection of particular habitat types are not available.
- In the last several years the protection of new areas has considerably stagnated. Since 2003 when the Nature Protection Act was passed, prescribing a new protection designation procedure, which included the preparation of expert bases and public participation, practically not even one new area has been designated for protection. The adoption of the Regulation on public examination procedure in designating protected area (Official Gazette 44/05), has provided preconditions for new designations. The designation procedure for the protection of several more localities is underway, and in 2006 the percentage of protected areas is expected to rise to 9.4% of Croatia's territory.
- The new Nature Protection Act also regulates the national ecological network which consists of international and national ecologically important areas. In 2005, a three-year project of Building the National Ecological Network as part of Pan-European Network (CRO-NEN) was completed, one of results being the Map of National Ecological Network as a part of the Pan-European Ecological Network and as a basis for the European Union NATURA 2000 programme. The species selected as important for building the National Ecological Network include: the NATURA 2000 species which migrate to Croatia (the species listed in the Annex I to the Birds Directive and Annex II to the Habitats Directive) and the species listed in the Red List of the Republic of Croatia (vascular plants, vertebrates, butterflies and underground fauna).
- The result of the project Mapping the Habitats of Croatia has provided the main source of data on habitats. Within the framework of the CRO-NEN project, the project team continuously updated the database adding new data on habitats, gathered through project activities or from other sources. These are mainly data on small habitats which are

important for the selection of potential ecological network areas – caves, saltmarshes, lagoons, sandbanks, inland sands, non-forested peatlands – bogs, Mediterranean wetlands and similar. In addition, the database includes areas relevant for nationally important species and habitats (Red List), which are not listed on the Habitats Directive list or covered by the PEEN. The selection of ecological network areas is based on data on species and habitat types, gathered during the project (including important areas proposed by scientists competent for individual groups); data on the protected areas as well as areas registered for protection by physical plans. The collected data has been interpreted by the project team.

- Collecting data for the Emerald Network is being carried out, and the Croatian proposal of ecological network is expected to be completed through the PHARE 2005 project "Implementation of Natura 2000 in Croatia".
- Under the Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/05), for all the programmes, projects and interventions in parts of the ecological network and protected areas, it is obligatory to carry out the evaluation of admissibility of the intervention for nature. The implementation mechanism for this provision has not been established yet, but the drafting of the Regulation on the ecological network and the evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature is under way.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

There is no developed and accepted set of biodiversity indicators in Croatia. The need for developing reliable biological indicators has been continuously emphasised and represents one of the most important objectives. The Croatian Environment Agency has taken charge of developing a proposal of a national set of indicators as well as coordinating the harmonisation procedure at the national level. In 2005, the proposals of the national sets of indicators related to specific themes were made, including biodiversity, air pollution, agro-environmental indicators, soil contamination and degradation indicators, inland waters-sea, waste-material flows. The bases required for the work of the commissions in charge for developing a national set of indicators have been created and it is planned that the commissions will finish their work in the second half of 2006, when a harmonised draft of a national set of indicators will be put forward.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

It was not until the last two to three years after the new nature protection acts and pertaining regulations were passed that the NSAP implementation has achieved an effective level in particular segments. Since the NSAP objectives were of a very broad nature, it was very difficult to start with their realisation without having inventorying completed and designed monitoring system in place. There has also been a problem of a relative lack of interest for their implementation on behalf of institutions and the government. Other challenges include poor cooperation and transfer of information as well as lack of staff and inadequate funding of the nature protection institutions. The nature protection system at regional and local self-government level is especially weak.

Over the last several years the situation has improved because of the founding of the State Institute for Nature Protection and by the building, through many projects, of the network of associates as well as by new legislation which is increasingly harmonised with the European and global legislation. The sustainable use of biological resources and, in particular, sustainable development are encouraged (among other things by Croatia's candidacy for the EU membership), although to a lesser extent. It should be noted that an effective protection of biodiversity, along with sustainable use and fair distribution of resources, is still at the beginning which requires even more expert staff, cooperation, raising public awareness of the need for protecting biodiversity as well as government support and more adequate funding.

Other relevant problems include:

- Difficulties in developing support systems for the implementation of the Convention and low level of all aspects of implementation due to the lack of standard implementation structure of the Convention on Biological Diversity, i.e. the Office of the Convention, CBD National Council, Implementation Committee and working groups have not been established.
- Lack of regulations and partial harmonisation/non-harmonisation with the EU regulations; the situation has improved since the negotiations for Croatia's EU membership started.
- Undefined conditions, methods and models of involvement and participation of other state

- administration bodies, institutions and other entities into the implementation.
- Poor communication among interest groups, institutions and sectors.
- Lack of capacity within administrative and expert services of competent bodies and institutions as well as lack of specific knowledge and low level of competence at all levels of education.
- Lack of an integrated system to access, dispose with and exchange information as well as lack of international cooperation and linkages
- Insufficient financial resources from the state budget.

**Box IV.**

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>The 1999 NSAP has provided for emergency protection of the most threatened parts of biodiversity. Therefore it has been planned to grant protection to several remaining bogs, aquatic and wetland habitats on islands, small watercourses under the Biokovo Mountain, the most endangered Karst running waters (the rivers Krka, Cetina, Zrmanja, Gacka), parts of the Mura, Drava and Sava basins, parts of the Motovun forest, the Malostonski Bay, sandy grasslands, dry grassland ecological system, wet grassland ecological system, semi-steppe grasslands, wetland meadows, small islands distinctive by endemic taxa, the Neretva river wetlands, sand and shingle beaches, mud shores, islets and reefs – marine birds' breeding sites and other areas distinguished by threatened habitats and taxa.</p> <p>Amongst national and nature parks, the last ones were protected in 1999: Northern Velebit National Park, Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje Nature Park, Vransko Lake Nature Park, Papuk Nature Park and Ucka Nature Park. In the late August 2005, the Ministry of Culture issued its first decision on preventive protection – for the Lastovo archipelago in the Nature park category, for the three-year period covering 19,583 ha in total and Turjak-Mališcak-Pliš-Lapjak area of Nature park Papuk in the category of Special floristic reserve; for the period of three years. The law proposal on designation of the Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park is in the parliamentary procedure and is to be adopted soon. Also, the decision on preventive protection of Rivers Karišnica and Bijela in the category - Important landscape was issued. The designation procedure related to the protection of several areas of international importance for the conservation of biodiversity (rivers Neretva, Mrežnica, and the Mura-Drava river complex) is under way.</p> <p>The Physical Planning Programme and Strategy of Croatia (in revision) has suggested the following:</p> <p><b>Establishment of the integrated protection of natural values</b> is to be achieved through research and systematic evaluation of the space, identification of protected nature parts, adoption and implementation of corresponding physical planning documents as well as through the improved legislative framework for nature protection.</p> <p>n (5-7)</p> <p><b>Preparation and adoption of (new) physical plans for national parks</b> (Plitvice Lakes, Paklenica, Risnjak, Mljet, Kornati, Brijuni and Krka) with the aim to bring the national park protection and use in line with primarily scientific, cultural, educational and recreational purposes. Under the Nature Protection Act, the only activities permitted in national parks are those, which do not endanger the authenticity of nature. Economic use of natural resources in national parks is prohibited, while tourist-recreational activities must be in connection with visiting and touring.</p> <p><b>Legal designation of the Northern Velebit National Park</b> on the area between Zavižan and Štirovaca, with the existing strict nature reserve 'Hajdučki and Rožanski kukovi' in its central part, as</p>	

well as preparation and adoption of the physical plan for that particular protected area.

n (5-8)

**Preparation and adoption of the physical plans for legally designated nature parks** Kopacki rit, Lonjsko polje, Telašćica, Velebit, Biokovo and Medvednica.

**Adoption of the Act on Designation of Nature Parks** Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje, Papuk, Učka, Mrežnica, Lower Neretva, Lastovo, Elafiti, Hrvatsko zagorje, Bjelolasica-Stijene and Licka Plješevica, **as well as preparation and adoption of physical plans for these nature parks.** Physical plan of each individual park should define the system of differentiated protection measures in compliance with ecological, aesthetic, cultural, historical, educational and tourist-recreational values of the area, in order to protect it against more extensive economic exploitation or construction activities, thus eliminating the risk that the development of some of the activities destroys the main resource that makes that development possible.

n (5-9)

**Expanding protection on about two hundred new areas and sites** under corresponding categories – strict nature reserve, special nature reserve, forest park, important landscape, nature monument and park architecture monument – within the competence of counties, subject to prior approval of the state administration body competent for nature protection. Most of these areas and sites have been registered in physical plans of former municipalities or they have been proposed for protection at county or City of Zagreb level. In order to do that, it would be necessary:

- to evaluate and zone certain parts of the maritime zone (as well as rivers and lakes) in order to identify and protect special nature reserves and to ensure adequate use and sustainable sea and underwater management,
- on the basis of evaluation, to include the area surrounding Prokljansko Lake under corresponding nature protection category since it was excluded from the Krka National Park when its boundaries were changed,
- the structure of (special) forest nature reserves should include all forest communities represented in Croatia,
- the protection should also be extended to sporadically neglected park architecture monuments, among which only some have been partially registered, for example the garden heritage of the Adriatic islands,
- to evaluate the protected nature parts according to appropriate criteria and to classify them into classes of international, national and local importance.

n (5-10)

**Within the framework of nature protection beyond protected areas and the use of natural resources,** it is necessary:

- to prevent interventions and activities resulting in degradation and reduction of the diversity of plant and animal life,
- in order to protect biodiversity, to preserve the densest possible network of conserved biotopes, interconnected with corridors, and, based on registering of various habitat types (from the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological Diversity) to place them correspondingly under protection; within the framework of forest management, to preserve a certain percentage of old forests, forest animal shelters; in agriculture and water management, to preserve part of existing hedges, groves, natural streams and other aquatic habitats when carrying out hydro ameliorations, land consolidation, water regulations etc; and when constructing roads and high-ways, to avoid crossing the key habitats and to provide crossings and passages for animals.
- to reduce or salvage harmful consequences of large-scale construction interventions or excavations of mineral raw materials (opencast mining) which most often can be achieved by biological recultivation,
- while carrying out interventions related to water management, it should be taken into account that these interventions bring about changes significant for a broader space, so the measures for mitigating adverse consequences are to be anticipated,
- to anticipate, in the long run, an adequate form of protection for medicinal (thermal, mineral and similar) springs in order to ensure their appropriate use (health, tourism, recreation).

n (5-11)



**Harmonisation of the Forest Act and the Nature Protection Act** and corresponding subordinate legislation in order to define more precisely meanings and authority concerning protection and forest management.

**Systematic purchase** of the most sensitive and the most threatened areas in protected nature parts in accordance with legal provisions and possibilities.

n (5-12)

**Monitoring the state of protected nature parts damaged during the Homeland War** (Plitvice Lakes, Lonjsko polje, Kopacki rit, Krka and others) and directing the salvage procedures and other protection related measures to speed up the process of their return to the original state.

n (5-13)

**Observance and implementation of international conventions** on nature protection Croatia is a party of, preparation and drawing up of a corresponding documentation with a view of proposing certain natural assets to be included in international lists (the UNESCO World Heritage List, special nature reserves, etc.), as well as intergovernmental cooperation concerning the protection of the protected nature parts in the border areas.

n (5-14)

**Priorities related to the most significant protected nature parts are:**

- to adopt physical plans of national parks,
- to prepare and adopt physical plans of nature parks,
- to designate the Northern Velebit National Park and proposed nature parks, as well as to prepare and adopt physical plans of these areas distinguished by special features. In the process of developing physical plans of the Mijet and Brijuni National Parks, it is necessary to examine and incorporate national defence requirements as well.

It is expected that the national targets relating to the above global target will be amended through the NSAP revision.

The proposal for Important Bird Areas and Important Butterfly Areas (IBAs) is under preparation; the Important Birds Areas have been identified, which meet the criteria for Important Bird Areas (SPAs). The Croatian Mycological Society has determined a part of Important Fungi Areas (IFAs) according to existing data and continues to work until the full proposal of IFA areas has been completed.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The role of traditional agriculture in the conservation of threatened habitat types (grassland vegetation) and in the conservation of indigenous varieties and breeds has been identified. The actions related to the above target have been undertaken through several projects carried out at the regional and local level as well as within the framework of programmes related to particular protected areas. It is expected that these targets will be incorporated into rural development strategies in the forthcoming period. The implementation of the EU Regulation on Rural Development is also under way.
b) Inland water		X	The national targets related to the conservation of inland water biodiversity and areas particularly important therefor are expected to be defined through the completion of the NEN and Natura 2000 proposal as well as through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive

c) Marine and coastal		X	The national targets for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity are expected to be defined through the completion of the NEN and Natura 2000 proposal. It is expected that the areas important for the conservation of biodiversity will be also identified through the implementation of the COAST Project (UNDP/GEF: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Dalmatian coast through greening coastal development) and the implementation of SAP-BIO (Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region).
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	Nationally important areas are expected to be defined through the completion of the NEN and Natura 2000 proposal.
e) Forest			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationally important areas for the conservation of forest biodiversity are expected to be defined through the completion of the NEN and Nature 2000 proposal. The conservation of naturalness of forest stands is the tradition of Croatian forestry. Additional protection of forest biodiversity is expected through the implementation of forest certification (FSC certificate).</li> <li>National inventory of forest resources, whose aim is to define the methodology of collecting data on surface and spatial distribution of specific forest types, data on quality and quantity, possibility of gaining access to information valuable for industry and many others, is to be completed by 2008. In 2005 a pilot project was launched, which involved testing of a conceptual and operational plan. The inventorying of the entire territory will start in 2006. The competent Ministry will fund this job, which is both demanding and expensive.</li> </ul>
f) Mountain		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A large part of Karst mountain area in Croatia has been protected under the national and nature park categories.</li> <li>Nationally important areas for the conservation of biodiversity of mountains are expected to be defined through the completion of the NEN project and Natura 2000 proposal.</li> </ul>
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
It has been incorporated into the 1999 NSAP, currently under revision, and into the new Strategy,			

which is to be developed over the next two years.

It has also been incorporated into the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and into the National Forestry Policy and Strategy.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

It is expected that national core areas for the conservation of biodiversity as well as the areas of European importance will be defined through the completion of the NEN and Natura 2000 proposal. Through the consultation process with other sectors, it is expected that the same targets will be defined and incorporated into sectoral strategic documents.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Challenges as in the case of Target 1.1.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

#### Box V.

<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of species diversity</b>	
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<b>Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
<p>The 1999 NSAP provides for the maintenance and reduction of the loss of species diversity. Along with planned management and protection action plans, efforts are made prevent the decline of populations and to maintain, in some parts even to restore, the state of populations. Legal provisions have also been made for protection and conservation measures for ecological network areas, also comprising the sites important for the survival of the species. Up to date the Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>), Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>) and Brown Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) Management Plans as well as Action Plans for the conservation of False ringlet (<i>Coenonympha oedippus</i>) and Eleonora's falcon (<i>Falco eleonorae</i>) have been passed. By protecting an area, the targeted species are also being protected. In early 2006 the Regulation on designation of protected and strictly protected wild taxa (Official Gazette 7/06) was adopted. The treatment of these species has been regulated by law, whereas the protection measures will be prescribed by the competent Minister.</p> <p>In the period from 2000 when the First National Report was submitted until now, as a result of the cooperation between the former Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, State Institute for Nature Protection, and a number of relevant experts, the Red Lists of threatened plants and animals have been developed, including vascular plants, underground fauna, butterflies, freshwater fish, amphibians, birds, mammals, marine fish and fungi. In the same period, the Red List of Threatened Plants and Animals of Croatia as well as three Red Data Books have been published (Red Data Book of Birds of Croatia, Red Data Book of Vascular Plants of Croatia and Red Data Book of Freshwater Fish of Croatia, Red Book of Amphibians and Reptiles of Croatia and Red Book of</p>		

Mammals of Croatia).

Given the uniqueness and significance of underground habitat fauna for biological diversity of Croatia, threatened underground animals have been dealt with as a special unit. Invertebrates have not yet been dealt with, especially due to the fact that data on most of the groups are still deficient.

Table 1. The number of threatened and endemic taxa in Croatia

	Total number of known taxa	number of endemic taxa	% of endemic taxa
Plants	8582	485	5,65
Fungi	3800	0	0
Lichens	930	82	8,82
Birds breeding/total	234/375	0	0
Reptiles	38	9	23,68
Amphibians	20	8	30
Freshwater fish	150	18	12
Marine fish	433	6	1,39
Terrestrial invertebrates	15474	351	2,27
Freshwater invertebrates	1780	172	9,66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36955</b>	<b>1135</b>	

Table 2. Number and percentage of threatened taxa in Croatia

	Total number of known taxa	Number of threatened taxa (RE/CR/EN/VU/DD)	% of threatened taxa (RE/CR/EN/VU/DD)
Vascular plants	5347	574	10,73
Fungi	3800	314	8,26
Mammals	101	19	18,81
Birds breeding/total	234/375	86	22,93
Reptiles	38	10	26,32
Amphibians	20	6	30
Freshwater fish	150	76	50,67
Marine fish	433	73	16,86
Butterflies	180	28	15,56
Dragonflies	71	31	43,66
UKUPNO	13375	1131	

Tablica 3. Relation between the number of threatened taxa (CR,EN,VU categories) and total number of taxa Source: IUCN, EEA/ETCNC, SINP

Group	Total number of known taxa	Number of threatened taxa	%
Mammals	89	8	9
Birds	231	76	32,6
Reptiles	38	4	10,5
Amphibians	20	4	20
Freshwater fish	150	66	44
Marine fish	407	26	6,4
Vascular plants	5347	223	4,2
Butterflies	187	11	5,9
Fungi	2300	251	10,9

The Red Data Books of butterflies, underground fauna, marine fish and fungi are in the process of preparation.

Based on the Red Data Books and Red Lists published so far and European directives related to this subject matter, the new Regulation on designation of protected and strictly protected wild taxa (Official Gazette 7/06) was adopted. Under this Regulation 2,300 indigenous and alien taxa, along with all underground fauna, are strictly protected.

Table 2. Number of protected taxa by group

Group	Strictly protected	Protected
Plants	809	331
Fungi	314	all other
Mammals	50	24
Birds – breeding / non-breeding	326	33
Reptiles	37	6
Amphibians	15	6
Freshwater fish	68	25
Marine fish	5	
Butterflies	26	14
Dragonflies	32	5

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	<p>It is expected that national targets for the conservation of inland water biodiversity and species particularly important therefor will be defined through the completion of the NEN and Natura 2000 proposal as well as through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The Order on Freshwater Fisheries regulates the close season for individual fish species and the minimum size of an individual fish species below which fish is not to be caught, kept, reloaded, unloaded, transported, stored, sold, processed, displayed or placed on the market.</p> <p>Act on Freshwater Fisheries (Official Gazette 106/01, 7/03, 174/04, 10/05)</p> <p>The adopted Regulation on Conservation of Threatened and Rare Habitat Types (Official Gazette 07/06), Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa (Official Gazette 07/06)</p> <p>Special regulations apply to species whose protection is not regulated by the Nature Protection Act.</p>
c) Marine and coastal	X		<p>It is expected that national targets for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and species particularly important therefor will be defined through the completion of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 proposal. Regulations on recreational, economic and sport fishing are in force regulating the methods of fishing and permitted fishing tools and gear aimed at controlling damage on other marine organisms and habitats.</p> <p>The Benthic Fish Resources Management and Monitoring Project aiming at establishing sustainable fisheries and the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Republic of Croatia with a special reference to mariculture</p> <p>The Act on Marine Fisheries (Official Gazette 76/99 and 48/05), under the section of Protection of fish and other marine organisms, provides for a number of legal measures designed to protect fish and other marine organisms. On the basis of this Act, the Regulation on special habitats of fish and other marine animals and Regulation on fishing in Velebit channel, Novigrad and Karin Sea, Prokljasko lake, Marinski bay and Neretva channel (Official Gazette 148/04) have been issued, designating 15 special habitats, which contain favourable conditions for the development of fish and other marine organisms and are their spawning grounds, feeding and growing sites or shelters.</p> <p>Wild fish population is fished on the sea. The species that are farmed are <i>Sparus aurata</i> – guilthead seabream and <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> – sea bass, tuna, sheepshead bream, common seabream and dentex.</p>

		<p>The major share of parent schools in Croatian spawning grounds consists of caught (wild) specimen.</p> <p>On the sea there are designated three National Parks (Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet), the Nature Park Telašćica and two Special nature reserves Malostonski Bay and Limski Channel, which represent the genetic biodiversity reservoir and where fishing has been considerably restricted.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land	X	
e) Forest	X	<p>The application of FSC Principles and nature protection requirements included in forest management bases and hunting management basis, has resulted in a more considerate approach of forestry practice toward threatened animal and fungi species.</p> <p>Hunting Act (Official Gazette 140/05) :</p> <p><b>Article 46</b></p> <p>(1) Hunting management basis, game breeding programme and game protection programme shall be in conformity with management bases for management units and forest management programmes, with requirements and method of using agricultural land, with water management basis, physical planning documents, or with special regulations related to physical planning and environmental protection and with signed international treaties related to hunting, nature protection and natural game habitats as well as with provisions of nature protection regulations.</p> <p>(2) The implementation of hunting management basis, game breeding programme and game protection programme is the obligation of a hunting unit leaseholder or the legal and natural persons who protect game on lands out of a hunting ground.</p> <p>(3) The content, method of producing and procedure of adopting, or approving hunting management basis, game breeding programme and game protection programme shall be prescribed by the Minister, subject to prior opinion of the Minister responsible for nature protection.</p> <p><b>Article 58</b></p> <p>(1) The game warden in carrying out his/her duties shall be authorized to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. establish the identity of each person who is hunting game or moving within a hunting ground with the means suitable for hunting of game,</li> <li>2. temporarily seize the means used for or intended for hunting as well as hunted game and its parts if hunting or moving within a hunting ground has been performed in a manner contrary to provisions of this Act,</li> <li>3. prevent destruction and appropriation of game and its offspring as well as damaging of its litter, nest and eggs,</li> <li>4. prevent hunting of game in an unauthorised manner, with unauthorised means and by using dogs</li> </ol>

		<p>hunting is not permitted with,</p> <p>5. supervise the keeping and transporting of game and its parts in a hunting ground.</p> <p>(2) Game warden, in carrying out his/her duties, shall have the obligation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. notify without delay the hunting unit leaseholder and veterinary service about the incidence of a disease and death of a game animal or other animal species as well as about imminent danger of natural disasters (floods, snow drifts, glazed frost, fire and other),</li> <li>2. collect information and data on hunting which was done contrary to provisions of this Act and report them to the hunting unit leaseholder, hunting inspection and the police,</li> <li>3. report about illegal kill or suffering of protected species to the inspection responsible for nature protection.</li> </ol> <p>(3) Regulation on expert service for the implementation of hunting management basis, game warden service, game warden card and badge form, method of their issuing and return, game warden duties and rights as well on the method of using firearms while conducting game warden service shall be issued by the Minister.</p> <p><b>Article 59</b></p> <p>(1) Hunting of game shall include searching, waiting, viewing for the purpose of hunting, alluring, tracking, kill-off and capturing of live game, releasing of birds of prey, collecting of game carcasses or their parts (horns, skin and other) and collecting of game birds' eggs.</p> <p>(2) Hunting of game in a hunting ground shall be performed in accordance with the hunting management basis or programme of game breeding, whereas on areas outside of a hunting ground in accordance with the programme of game protection and the purpose intended for these areas, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, respecting hunting ethics and customs.</p> <p>(3) By way of derogation from paragraph 2 of this Article, the brown bear shall be hunted as laid down by the Brown Bear Management Action Plan for the Republic of Croatia for a particular year, to be developed and implemented by the Ministry at the proposal of the National Commission for the Development of the Brown Bear Management Plan for the Republic of Croatia and Monitoring of Large Carnivore Population.</p> <p>(4) It shall be prohibited to hunt the game during the close season period, except in the cases set out by this Act.</p> <p>(5) The close season by game species, depending on their features and conditions in which they live, is prescribed by the Minister subject to prior opinion of the central state administration body, competent for the nature protection tasks.</p>
--	--	--



			In the process of preparation of the Red Data Book of vascular plants, it has been found that that the current forestry practice has not threatened substantially forest flora biodiversity.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Scientific research on comparison of biodiversity of birds, mammals and insects in managed and non-managed forests is in its final stage and the modification of the forestry practice is expected to occur according to the research results. The conservation of forest biodiversity will be set up as a priority through the application of FSC, and it will be carried out through the implementation of Natura 2000 Ecological Network. It is also indirectly regulated through physical planning and hunting documents.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Challenges as in the case of Target 1.1.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box VI .**

<b>Target 2.2</b>	<b>Status of threatened species improved</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The Nature Protection Act defines the methods of and conditions for using and protecting wild taxa.</p> <p>The Nature Protection Act specifies the obligation of adopting protection measures and requirements which must be incorporated into the protected wild taxa management plans in terms of their use.</p> <p>The 1999 NSAP provides for the maintaining and reducing the loss of species diversity. Along with planned management and protection action plans, efforts have been made to prevent the decline in populations and to maintain, in some parts even to restore, the state of populations.</p> <p>The ecological network envisages the areas of restoration of threatened habitat types, which are also related to threatened species. Monitoring of individual populations of threatened species is being carried out.</p> <p>In 2006 the Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa , which call for conservation measures, was adopted.</p> <p>It is expected that the status of populations of some threatened species will improve through protection carried out through the implementation of ecological network and protected areas.</p> <p>Wolf, lynx – existing action plan</p> <p>The regulations covering the issues of protection are consistent with the goal of the Strategy (NSAP).</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	<p>The Act on State Subsidies for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Official Gazette 87/02) specifies incentives for conservation of autochthonous and protected breeds and for ecological production.</p> <p>The National programme for agriculture and rural areas, as one of its objectives, highlights the development of agriculture, which takes care of the natural environment and conservation of biological and landscape diversity. Therefore it is encouraged to use technology of agricultural production, which provides for the protection of natural resources, conservation of threatened areas and protection of agricultural land as well as for the conservation of biological and ecosystem diversity.</p>
b) Inland water		X	<p>It is expected that national targets for conservation of inland water biodiversity and species particularly important therefor will be defined through the completion of the National Ecological Network and the Natura 2000 proposal as well as through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>The Decree on Freshwater Fisheries regulates a close season for specific fish species and the minimum size</p>

of individual fish species below which fish cannot be caught, kept, reloaded, unloaded, transported, stored, sold, processed, displayed nor placed on the market.

**Freshwater Fisheries Act:**

**Article 54**

(1) In a specific fishing area or specific fishing zone, a selective fishing of those fish species, which do not pose a threat to other species, may be temporarily approved to a holder of fishing right.

(2) Based on the request by a holder of fishing right, the Decision for selective fishing shall be issued by the Ministry with the approval of the minister competent for nature protection.

(3) The decision for selective fishing shall contain the fishing gear and equipment as well as time and method in which fishing referred to in 1 of this Article shall not be allowed.

**Article 55**

(1) Farming of alien fish species shall be allowed only with the approval of the Minister and with the prior approval of the minister competent for nature protection, based on a priory prepared environmental impact assessment in accordance with special regulations regulating the field of physical planning and environmental protection.

(2) Stocking of fishing waters with fish species which disappeared from these waters (reintroduction) shall be allowed only with the approval of the Minister, subject to prior approval of the minister competent for nature protection, on the basis of previously prepared environmental impact assessment in accordance with regulations regulating the field of physical planning and environmental protection.

(3) Import of and trade in live specimen of foreign fish species and/or fertilised spawn for farming shall be allowed only with the approval of the Minister, subject to prior approval of the minister competent for nature protection.

**Article 56**

For the purpose of protection, farming or reproduction of fish, the Minister may prohibit or restrict the use of specific fishing gear and equipment in a specific fishing area or in a specific fishing zone.

**Article 57**

(1) It shall be prohibited to:

1. catch, keep, reload, unload, transport, store, sell, process, display or attempt to place on the market fish during their close season period,
2. catch, keep, reload, unload, transport, store, sell, process, display or attempt to place on the market immature fish,
3. catch fish with explosive or chemical means which kill, poison or stun them, and/or put in circulation fish

		<p>caught in that manner,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. catch fish in fishing waters using alien fish species (live or dead) as a bait,</li> <li>5. catch fish with a spear-fishing gun or fish spear or harpoons or electrical current or with other unauthorised means, and/or put in circulation fish caught in that manner,</li> <li>6. catch fish with more fishing gears or equipment than prescribed by regulation adopted pursuant to this Act,</li> <li>7. prevent in any way fish from returning from a flooded area to a watercourse, catch fish with means preventing fish from returning from a flooded area and to prevent any other migratory movements of fish,</li> <li>8. catch fish directly with a hand, by trawling and hooking with a fish-hook on the outer side of a fish body,</li> <li>9. stock fishing without fish health certificate</li> <li>10. obstruct posting of signs or take down the signs indicating a fishing area or fishing zone, spawning ground or farming site,</li> <li>11. catch fish within an enclosed space of hydro-electric power project,</li> <li>12. catch fish 100 meters upstream and downstream from the fence of hydro -electric power project.</li> </ol> <p>(2) The provisions referred to in paragraph 1, points 2 and 3 of this Article shall not refer to fish from aquaculture.</p> <p>(3) Natural or legal person who is an owner of a hydro-electric power project shall have the obligation to prevent fishing within the enclosed space of hydro-electric power project.</p>
c) Marine and coastal	X	<p>It is expected that national targets for the conservation of inland water biodiversity and species particularly important therefor will be defined through the completion of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 proposal. Regulations on recreational, economic and sport fishing have also been adopted, regulating fishing methods and authorised fishing gears in order to control the damage on other marine organisms and habitats.</p> <p>The Benthic Fish Resources Management and Monitoring project aimed at establishing sustainable fisheries and Coastal Zone Management Plan for Croatia with special reference to mariculture.</p> <p>The Act on Marine Fisheries (Official Gazette 74/1994, 57/1996, 46/1997 – consolidated text, 76/1999, 48/2005), under the section Protection of fish and other marine organisms provides for a number of legal measures aimed at protecting fish and other marine organisms.</p> <p><b>Article 47</b></p> <p>For the sake of protection of the sea, fish and other marine organisms, actions shall be undertaken and</p>

measures shall be implemented for the protection of fishing and breeding areas.

For the sake of protection of cliff-bound coast as a special habitat of fishing seas, it shall be prohibited to catch date-shells and to place them on the market on the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia, as well as to export them.

**Article 48**

It shall be prohibited to catch and place on the market immature fish and other immature marine organisms.

It shall be prohibited to catch fish and other marine organisms during the close fishing season and place them on the market in a fresh state.

For the sake of protection of fish and other marine organisms, the Minister shall prescribe:

1. what is implied by immature fish and other marine organisms,
2. the minimum size of economically important fish species and other marine organisms below which they shall not be caught, collected or placed on the market,
3. the close fishing season for individual fish species and other marine organisms, i.e. time period in which they shall not be caught, collected or placed on the market.
4. the ban of fishing in certain fishing area or zone.

The Minister may allow fishing of immature fish and other immature organisms in a specific part of the fishing sea, for a specific period of time and with specific fishing gears for farming, stocking and research purposes.

**Article 52**

For the sake of protection of fish and other marine organisms, the Minister shall designate special habitats of fish and other marine organisms (hereinafter referred to as: special habitats).

Special habitats are parts of fishing sea in which fishing shall be prohibited.

The Minister may allow fishing in a special habitat, for a specific period of time and with specific fishing gears and equipment in the interest of an appropriate management.

Pursuant to this Act, the Regulation on special habitats has been made designating 15 special habitats containing favourable conditions for the development of fish and other marine organisms and which are their spawning grounds, feeding and growing sites and shelters.

wWld fish population is usually fished. The species that are farmed are *Sparus aurata* – guilthead seabream and *Dicentrarchus labrax* – sea bass, tuna, *Diplodus puntazzo* - sheepshead bream, ***Diplodus Vulgaris*** - common seabream and *Dentex dentex* - dentex. The major share of parent school in Croatian

		<p>spawning grounds consists of caught (wild) specimen.</p> <p>On the sea there are designated three National Parks (Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet), the Nature Park Telašćica and two special nature reserves Malostonski Bay and Limski Channel, which represent the genetic biodiversity reservoir and where fishing has been considerably restricted.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land	X	
e) Forest	X	<p>The implementation of and compliance with FSC requirements and nature protection requirements for forest management bases has resulted in a slight change of forestry practice in relation to threatened animal and fungi species.</p> <p>The National Inventory of Forest Resources of the Republic of Croatia (monitoring of the state and changes of forest landscape aimed at measuring and assessing forest resources in order to obtain new information on the state, use, management and development of forest resources) – the first phase is expected to end in late July 2008.</p> <p>In the process of preparation of the Red Data Book of vascular plants, it has been found that the current forestry practice has not threatened substantially forest flora biodiversity.</p>
f) Mountain	X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?		
a) No		
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		
Please provide details below.		
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.		
Monitoring has not yet produced its first results. Only certain species have been monitored. Therefore there is no data on potential change of status of individual taxa.		
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.		
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.		
Challenges as in the case of Target 1.1.		

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VII.**

<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</b>
<b>Target 3.1</b>	<b>Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>Endemic plants have been cultivated in in-vitro culture, and botanical gardens contain a large number of threatened and endemic, as well as other taxa, which enjoy limited ex-situ protection.</p> <p>A part of protected areas implement their own programmes for conservation of individual indigenous varieties and breeds. Currently similar programmes are being developed. The conservation of sheep breeds and indigenous breeds of horses and pigs has been achieved, the collection of indigenous varieties of wine grapes has been grown, the diversity of domestic varieties of cherries has been determined and the plantations of local varieties of cabbage have been cultivated.</p> <p>The efforts are being made to protect indigenous regional products, products of protected origin, products with a protected name and regional trademark thus preserving traditional knowledge and skills. The conservation of genetic diversity of wildlife has been provided for by the Hunting Act and related subordinate legislation. First of all it refers to the Programmes of game breeding, Programmes of game protection and hunting management bases and possibilities of introducing game into Croatian hunting grounds from other countries which are parties to the Convention with the aim to enrich the genetic fund.</p> <p>Regulation on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources and the method of work and organisation of the gene bank of agricultural plants has been adopted. The preparation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Plant Genetic Resources, carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) is under way.</p> <p>Croatia's development is based on sustainability therefore the features of sustainable use have been incorporated in most of its programmes and strategies concerning agriculture, forestry, fisheries and nature protection. Regional management and nature protection plans also encourage sustainable development and production as result of which many of their projects specifically focus on sustainable production and management of biological resources. Ecological production based on the use of traditional knowledge, especially while cultivating and processing indigenous varieties and breeds, is also stimulated. The National Forestry Policy and Strategy, the Strategy of Agriculture and Fisheries, The National Ecological Agricultural Strategy and the Environmental Protection Strategy emphasise sustainable development.</p> <p>The Nature Protection Act provides foundation for the protection and use of all genetic resources. According to Croatia's Report on Agenda 21 Implementation, so far not a single county and only</p>	

several municipalities/cities have implemented the local Agenda 21 as both a process and document of sustainable development at the local level.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Regulation on conservation and use of the plant genetic resources and the method of work and organisation of the plant gene bank of agricultural plants (Official Gazette NN 4/05) lays down the methods of collecting, conserving, describing, evaluating and using plant genetic resources in agriculture, as well as the method of work and organisation of plant gene banks of agricultural plants on the territory of the Republic of Croatia.
b) Inland water			<p>The Act on Freshwater Fisheries lays down a number of legal provisions for the protection of freshwater fish. Based on the Act, the Order on the protection of fish in freshwater fisheries has been issued. There are two protected areas on freshwaters – the Kopacki rit Nature Park and the Lonjsko polje Nature Park -, which represent significant spawning grounds of freshwater fish of the Danube river basin.</p> <p>Under the Nature Protection Act, only farming, fishery and craft in a traditional way are permitted in a National Park.</p>
c) Marine and coastal	X		<p>The Benthic Fish Resources Management and Monitoring Project aiming at establishing sustainable fisheries and the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Republic of Croatia with a special reference to mariculture</p> <p>The Act on Marine Fisheries (Official Gazette 74/1994, 57/1996, 46/1997 – consolidated text, 76/1999, 48/2005), under the section 'Protection of fish and other marine organisms', provides for a number of legal measures designed to protect fish and other marine organisms.</p> <p>On the basis of this Act, the Regulation on special habitats has been adopted, designating 15 special habitats, which contain favourable conditions for the development of fish and other marine organisms and are their spawning grounds, feeding and growing sites or shelters.</p> <p>Wild fish population is fished on the sea. The species that are bred are <i>Sparus aurata</i> – guilthead sea-bream and <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> – sea bass, tuna, sheepshead bream, common seabream and dentex. The major share of parent school in Croatian spawning grounds consists of caught (wild) specimen.</p> <p>On the sea there are designated three National Parks (Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet), the Nature Park Telašćica and two special nature reserves Malostonski Bay and Limski Channel, which represent the genetic biodiversity reservoir and where fishing has been</p>



			considerably restricted. Under the Nature Protection Act, only farming, fishery and craft in a traditional way are permitted in a National Park.
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest	X		In the Forestry Act and the Act on Forestry Reproductive Material. Since 2000 the conservation of genetic fund represents a measure from the FSC certificate supporting sustainable management (2 million hectares of state-owned forests). The National Ecological Network comprises of areas of valuable forest ecosystems, while programmes and management plans in all valuable and protected areas must contain nature protection requirements. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has started the project of National Inventory of Forest Resources of the Republic of Croatia (monitoring of the state and changes of forest landscape, aimed at measuring and assessing forest resources in order to obtain new information on the state, use, management and development of forest resources) – the first phase is expected to end in late July 2008.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
In the 1999 Strategy (NSAP) which is under revision, and in the new Strategy which is to be adopted in 2 years time. The targets corresponding to the global target have been set up in the aforementioned sectoral studies. The studies encourage the conservation of genetic diversity, particularly indigenous taxa.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Currently there are numerous programmes that are being developed in all sectors, while a part of them are in force. Their implementation is yet to take place in full. The implementation and functioning of the system in relation to this target are expected to occur through the EU adjustment and accession process.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Challenges as in the case of Target 1.1. + Lack of coordination between the agricultural, forestry and water management sectors; environmental protection and nature protection sectors.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VIII.**

<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Promote sustainable use and consumption.</b>		
<b>Target 4.1</b>	<b>Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Under the Nature Protection Act, protection is based on sustainable use of biological resources. Sustainable use is provided for by issuing permits for the collection and use as well as by monitoring (for example plants, fungi, snails, frogs, etc.).</p> <p>The Nature Protection Act prescribes the obligation of adopting management plans for protected areas and future Natura 2000 areas.</p> <p>Croatia's development is based on sustainability and the features of sustainable use have been incorporated in the majority of its programmes and strategies related to agriculture, forestry, hunting, fisheries, nature protection and environmental protection. Regional management and nature protection plans also encourage sustainable development and production as a result of which many of their projects focus specifically on sustainable production and management of biological resources. Individual protected areas seek to encourage local production and indigenous products within the framework of a sustainable development programme.</p> <p>Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy, National Strategy for Ecological Agriculture, Nature Protection Strategy and National Forestry Policy and Strategy emphasise the concept of sustainable development.</p> <p>The implementation of these strategic documents is still at its early stage.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>

a) Agricultural		X	The Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy (2002) and National Strategy for Ecological Agriculture – place emphasis on sustainable development and sustainable management.
b) Inland water		X	Environmental Protection Strategy
c) Marine and coastal		X	Environmental Protection Strategy and NEAP
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	<p><b>Forestry Act (Official Gazette 140/05)</b></p> <p><b>Article 8</b></p> <p>(1) The company »Hrvatske šume« (eng. "Croatian Forests" – the company in charge for managing state-owned forests) and forest owners shall be obliged to manage forests by preserving and improving the biological and landscape diversity and taking care of protecting the forest ecosystem in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– maintaining the natural forest composition and supporting the indigenous species,</li> <li>– aspiring toward the prolongation of rotation for tree species which are more important for the economy, where the conditions and need for it exist,</li> <li>– through placement and structure of artificially raised stands stimulating the protection and rehabilitation of natural forests and not increasing the pressure on them,</li> <li>– performing the selection of species for artificial rising of stands and rehabilitation of degraded stands on the basis of general adequacy to habitat conditions and management objectives while giving advantage to indigenous species and local provenance,</li> <li>– using only those introduced species, provenances and varieties whose influence on the ecosystem, genetic integrity of indigenous species and local provenance has been professionally evaluated and whose negative influence can be avoided or reduced,</li> <li>– avoiding the felling of protected, rare or endangered tree species, forest fruit trees and other species of forest berries and protecting and introducing them during the forest rehabilitation,</li> <li>– taking care of other species in the ecosystem which are tied to dry or rotting trees i.e. leaving a required number of old oaks, hollow and rotten trees in such a pattern and number as to preserve the biological diversity,</li> <li>– supporting the traditional management system in the appropriate habitats which form a valuable ecosystem, when this is economically feasible,</li> <li>– establishing the comprehensive monitoring network for observing the movement of negative processes in forests endangered by desiccation and natural hazards,</li> <li>– implementing forest care and felling in a manner not causing permanent damage to the ecosystem and undertaking the measures for improvement and preservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>– adjusting the type and method of means used for</li> </ul>

			<p>forest cultivation, exploitation and protection to the specific qualities of habitats and species,</p> <p>– adjusting the forest cultivation, exploitation and protection and the construction and maintenance of forest infrastructure to the protection of soil and water in terms of avoiding harmful influences on the quality and quantity of water springs and accumulations, and of the free movement of surface and subsurface waters.</p> <p>(2) The infrastructure in forest ecosystems should be designed in a manner least harmful to the forest habitat taking into consideration the special geological, vegetational, hydrological and other values and especially the ecological, valuable parts of the ecosystem prescribed by special regulations (parts of ecological network, habitats and migration corridors of rare, sensitive or endangered species).</p>
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The corresponding national target has been laid down in the NSAP.</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY – SPECIES AND HABITATS</b></p> <p>Currently we are in the period when nature protection and sustainable use of biological resources have been given the greatest attention ever. Ministries responsible of control, oversight and use of biological resources are required to harmonise legislation with the EU Directives and other regulations and to incorporate protection of species and their habitats.</p> <p>In protected areas public institutions are involved in the overall inventorying and protection with numerous smaller and larger projects.</p> <p>Natura 2000 – the implementation of the Natura 2000 network is under way.</p> <p><b>FORESTS</b></p> <p>Forest management in Croatia is carried out through forest management plans (10-year forest management bases) 'with the objective of preserving the biological diversity and ensuring management based on the principles of economic sustainability, social responsibility and ecological acceptability' (Article 1 of the Forest Act, Official Gazette 140/05).</p> <p>The Republic of Croatia has received the FSC certificate as evidence of sustainable management on 2 million hectares of state-owned forests. The development of national standards for forest certification is under way.</p> <p>In 2006 it is planned to set up and to put in operation the Forestry Extension Service.</p> <p>According to the proposal contained in the National Strategy of Ecological Agriculture, by 2010 the</p>			

portion of land under ecological production, including pastures and forests, should increase to at least 10 per cent of total cultivated agricultural land in Croatia and domestic market for ecological products should be developed.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

- Difficulties in developing support systems for the implementation of the Convention and a low level of all implementation aspects due to the lack of standard implementation structure of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Office of the Convention, National Council, Implementation Committee and working groups).
- Lack of regulations and partial harmonisation/non-harmonisation with the EU regulations (the situation has improved since the negotiations on Croatia's EU membership started)
- Undefined conditions, methods and models of involvement and participation of other state administration bodies, institutions and other entities in implementation
- Lack of capacity within administrative and technical services of competent bodies and institutions as well as the lack of specific knowledge and a low level of competence at all levels of education
- Absence of an integrated system to access, dispose with and exchange information as well as lack of international cooperation and linkages
- Communication and understanding between sectors
- Insufficient funding from the state budget

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box IX.**

<b>Target 4.2</b>	<b>Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
Croatia's development is based on sustainability so the features of sustainable use have been incorporated in the majority of its programmes and strategies related to agriculture, forestry, hunting, fisheries, nature protection and environmental protection. Under the Nature Protection Act the protection is based on sustainable use of biological resources. Sustainable use is provided for through by monitoring and issuing permits for collection and use (for example plants, fungi, snails,		

frogs, etc.). Regional management and nature protection plans also encourage sustainable development and production as result of which many of their projects focus specifically on sustainable production and management of biological resources.

The National Forestry Policy and Strategy, Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy and National Strategy for Ecological Agriculture place emphasis on sustainable development. The implementation of these strategic documents, in most of the segments, is in its initial stage.

Forestry, hunting and fishery sectors have developed long-term plans incorporating the sustainability principles.

Environmental impact assessment procedure has been prescribed for most of interventions (or use of natural resources) and use of mineral raw materials.

+

Educational and promotional programmes/projects are conducted on a permanent basis designed to reduce unsustainable use of natural resources at the national, regional and local level.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		X	The project Adriamed – Fao Italy – support to Adriatic countries in implementation of joint fisheries management based on sustainable use
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

See Target 4.1. Section III)

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

See Target 4.1. Section IV)

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Challenges same as in Target 1.1.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box X.**

<b>Target 4.3</b>	<b>No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The Nature Protection Act provides for the protection of endangered species. On the basis of the Act, the Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa which requires conservation measures (Official Gazette 7/06) and the Regulation on keeping, marking and registering wild protected taxa in captivity (Official Gazette 146/05) were adopted. The Regulation on trans-boundary traffic and trade in protected species is in the procedure of being adopted. It will specify the species for which authorisations for import, export, trade and breeding will be issued; the procedure and requirements for issuing of authorisations; the methods of marking animals and consignments; the method of carrying out supervision and keeping records as well as reporting procedure.</p> <p>Inspectional supervision and activities have been defined by the Nature Protection Act. The cooperation between the nature protection inspection, customs service and the police has been established. Croatia has been a party to the CITES Convention since 2000.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	

f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The 1999 Strategy (NSAP) has not specified the corresponding target; however this target has been unofficially recognised. It is expected that the corresponding target will be incorporated through the NSAP revision process.</p> <p>The CITES provisions have been incorporated into the Nature Protection Act, the Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa (Official Gazette 07/06) and into the Regulation on trans-boundary trade in protected species. The authority responsible for the implementation of the CITES is Ministry of Culture, whereas the inspectional supervision over the CITES implementation is carried out by the Nature Protection Inspection operating within the Ministry.</p> <p>In order to prevent illegal trade in protected plant and animal species there are regular training events organised for customs service and the border police.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>See III)</p> <p>The competent authority, in cooperation with customs service and the police as well as with help of nongovernmental organisations, systematically works on education of general public and the very services.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Croatia there is a constant lack of staff in activities not yet recognized as a priority. It is related to insufficient financial resources allocated to the educational system and science as well as to the lack of clarity in defining priorities in society.</li> <li>- The central office for the implementation of the CITES within the Ministry is still inexistent.</li> <li>- Insufficient funding</li> <li>- Technical conditions (communication, organised informatic systems etc.)</li> </ul>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XI .**

<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</b>
---------------	--



Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Such a target has been established in the nature protection sector and its full implementation is expected through the ecological network and protected areas. However, its integration into individual sectors (water management, transport, tourism, electric-power supply, agriculture and forestry) is still in the early stage.</p> <p>Threatened habitats and measures for their protection have been defined by the Regulation on Conservation of Threatened and Rare Habitat Types (Official Gazette 07/06).</p> <p>Interventions on parts of the ecological network and Natura 2000 areas are subject to admissibility evaluation, which will be regulated by the Regulation on evaluation of admissibility of an intervention to nature.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	<p>Under the Act on Agricultural Land (Official Gazette 66/01) agricultural land is an asset of interest for the Republic of Croatia and is a beneficiary of its special protection. The Act also lays down that the protection of agricultural land against pollution is implemented for the sake of enabling the production of safe food, for the sake of the protection of health of people and of animal and plant life, undisturbed use and protection of nature and the environment.</p> <p>Approximately 140-180 000 hectares of arable agricultural land (7-9% of total arable lands) are still contaminated with mines.</p>
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		<p>Converting of forest land has been strictly restricted under:</p> <p>1. Forest Act:</p> <p><b>Article 3</b></p> <p>(1) Forests and forestland represent a specific natural resource and with the forest functions of general benefit require a special method of administration and management.</p>

		<p>(2) The forest functions of general benefit are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protection of soil from erosion by water and wind,</li> <li>- balancing water ratios in the landscape and preventing floods and high water waves,</li> <li>- purification of water through percolation into forest soil and the supply of underground streams and water sources with drinking water,</li> <li>- creation of favourable influence on the climate and agricultural activities,</li> <li>- purification of polluted air,</li> <li>- effect on the landscape beauty,</li> <li>- creation of favourable conditions for human health,</li> <li>- ensuring the space for rest and recreation,</li> <li>- conditioning the development of ecological, hunting and rural tourism,</li> <li>- preservation of the genofond of forest trees and other types of forest biocenosis,</li> <li>- preservation of biological diversity of the genofond, species, ecosystems and landscapes,</li> <li>- support of the general and special protection of nature of forest landscapes (national parks, etc.),</li> <li>- mitigation of the atmospheric «greenhouse effect» by carbon sequestration and oxygen enrichment of the environment,</li> <li>- general protection and improvement of human environment through the existence of forest ecosystems as a biological capital of great value and</li> <li>- importance for the defence of the country and the development of local communities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Article 32</b></p> <p>Unless otherwise provided in this Act, the following shall be prohibited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- devastation of forests, felling of trees or damaging them,</li> <li>- clear cutting of forest, unless it is prescribed by forest management plans,</li> <li>- deforestation,</li> <li>- cutting of branches, parts of branches or pruning of leaves, unless it is prescribed by the forest management plans,</li> <li>- pasturing, browsing and acorning,</li> <li>- collection and removal of rustle, moss, forest fruits and other forest products,</li> <li>- removal of humus, peat and dry leaves ground-layer, and collection of resin.</li> </ul> <p>2. The FSC Principles of Natural Forest Management</p> <p><b>Principle 9: Maintenance of Natural Forests (rev.1999)</b></p> <p>Primary forests, well developed secondary forests and sites of major environmental, social or cultural significance shall be conserved. Such areas shall not be replaced by tree plantations or other land uses.</p>
f) Mountain	X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and		

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>The corresponding target was identified in the 1999 Strategy (NSAP).</p> <p>II. Strategic objective – wetlands and waters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to list and evaluate all wetlands in Croatia and develop the national wetland conservation and management programme</li> <li>2. to prevent the loss of the remaining natural wetlands and preserve mechanisms that enable their natural renewal, including the maintaining of the remaining natural watercourses</li> <li>3. to ensure active protection of the rest of natural wetlands, including the adoption of plans for the protected area management and active protection measures for minor Mediterranean wetland sites</li> <li>4. to ensure protection of watercourses and the sea against pollution</li> <li>5. to renew the degraded natural wetlands and, wherever possible, to revitalise the depleted wetlands, especially in the Mediterranean part of Croatia</li> <li>6. to improve artificial aquatic and wetland biotopes in terms of acquiring as many natural features as possible.</li> </ol> <p>FORESTRY</p> <p>The goal of the National Forestry Policy and Strategy is to preserve and promote habitat stability, health state of forests and productive capacity of stands.</p> <p>The results of forest health monitoring in 2001 and 2002 showed a slight reduction in forest damage. Systematic monitoring still presents a large problem as well as the lack of national inventory of forest ecosystems. Also, approximately 12% of the forests and forestlands are still contaminated with land mines, making it impossible to determine the state of and potential changes in the stability of these parts of forest ecosystem. One of the National Policy's goals is to establish mine clearance priorities and decide on de-mining methods in forests and forest lands, in co-ordination with institutions responsible for mine clearance.</p> <p>The Forestry Act prescribes strict restriction of the conversion of forestland.</p> <p>INLAND WATERS</p> <p>The corresponding target has been identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (see above).</p> <p>It is expected that this target will be established through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and National Ecological Network.</p> <p>The goal of the National Environmental Action Plan referring to the <b>protection of wetland habitats (C3)</b> has been partially achieved: a preliminary inventorying of wetland habitats with a corresponding GIS-database has been done. Compensation mechanism for the lost wetland habitats has been incorporated into the Nature Protection Act but it is yet to take hold (as regards the evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature which will start to be carried out when the National Ecological Network is established). The National Policy on the Protection of Wetland Habitats has not been adopted yet either.</p> <p>The projects of developing wetland management plans (Neretva, Kopacki rit) are under way. The mouth of the Neretva river is in the process of protection.</p> <p>MARINE AND COASTAL AREA</p> <p>The need for protection and the threat to the habitat have been identified. The preventive protection of the Lastovo archipelago as well as areas of River Karišnica and Bijela, and area between Lošinj and Cres Islads has been designated.</p>	

## MOUNTAINS

In the protected mountainous areas the problem of habitat loss and degradation has been identified. Educational and incentive projects aiming at stopping the habitat loss are being developed or have already been implemented.

### IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

The legislative framework has been established. The nature protection system carries out projects in relation to this target.

The Project Mapping the Habitats in Croatia has been implemented which resulted in GIS map of habitat types, with 1:100 000 resolution; the project Inventorying of wetland habitats in Croatia has been carried out (the SINP with financial support of the Ramsar SGF) through which the GIS database has been established.

The CRO-NEN project – Building the National Ecological Network as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network: all areas hosting protected and threatened habitats at the national and European level have also been included in the network.

A preliminary inventorying of wetland habitats with corresponding GIS-database has been done. The compensation mechanism for lost wetland habitats has been incorporated into the Nature Protection Act, but it is yet to take hold (regarding the evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature which will start to be carried out when the National Ecological Network is established). The National Wetland Protection Policy has not yet been adopted either.

Currently the efforts are made to set up a mechanism for evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature (EU Habitats Directive, Article 6), which should reduce the habitat loss in the ecological network area and in the protected areas.

## FORESTRY

The conservation of the natural state of forest stands is the tradition of the Croatian forestry.

Additional protection of biodiversity is expected through the implementation of commitments deriving from the forest certification (FSC certificate).

Indicators of forest cover, wood supplies, forest increment rates and other substantial forest state indicators place Croatia among the European countries with considerable forest resources.

In 2003 about 25 700 ha of land was under fire, with almost half of the fires happening on private forest and agricultural lands.

10% of all forest areas are still contaminated with mines.

### V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

### VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

- Communication
- Political understanding of the issue and financial support
- Public sensitisation and education
- Lack of human resources
- Intersectoral cooperation

### VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

#### Share of individual habitat types according to EUNIS classification

Habitat	EUNIS code	Surface (km <sup>2</sup> )	%
---------	------------	----------------------------	---

Marine habitats	A	20	0.04%
Coastal habitats	B	20	0.04%
Inland surface waters	C	588	1.04%
Grasslands	E	9972	17.62%
Heathland, scrub and tundra	F	1925	3.40%
Woodland, forest and other wooded land	G	24928	44.04%
Inland unvegetated or sparsely vegetated habitats	H	60	0.11%
Cultivated lands/habitats	I	8973	15.85%
Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats	J	2651	4.68%
Habitat complexes	X	7471	13.20%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>56542</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Out of total of ten biogeographical regions, four of them are represented in Croatia: the Panonian, Continental, Alpine and Mediterranean, thus indicating the richness of biodiversity.

The first version of the National Habitat Classification of Croatia (NHC) has been developed within the project 'Mapping the Habitats of the Republic of Croatia'. The National Habitat Classification comprises of five levels, and covers natural and semi-natural, as well as man-made habitat types. At the first NHC level, the habitat types are classified into 10 basic categories (A. Inland surface water and wetland habitats; B. Inland unvegetated and sparsely vegetated habitats; C. Grassland, bogs, fens and tall forbs habitats; D. Scrub habitats; E. Forest habitats; F. Coastal habitats; G. Marine habitats; H. Underground habitats; I. Cultivated non-forested land and habitats with weeds and ruderal vegetation; J. Constructed and industrial habitats), with a detailed breakdown of each up to level five.

The system has also been developed to re-code the National Habitat Classification into PHYSIS, EUNIS and CORINE Landcover classification systems, and for marine habitats, into the classification system of the Barcelona Convention.

Since the loss of habitat is one of the main causes of threat to a large number of species, it is imperative to make the Red Data Book of threatened habitats in Croatia.

#### Box XII.

<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Control threats from invasive alien species.</b>	
<b>Target 6.1</b>	<b>Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
The main legislation regulating the issue of introduction of alien species are the Nature Protection Act		

and Environmental Protection Act. This issue has also been regulated by the Hunting Act and Islands Act, which incorporate provisions for alien species of wildlife. The Marine and Freshwater Fisheries Acts regulate farming and introduction of marine/freshwater alien species. There is also the Act on Animal Welfare that forbids releasing pets and introduction of alien species in that way.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal	X		Programme/overview of the status of <i>Caulerpa</i> species on the Adriatic has been made, and the state monitoring working group has been established by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The threat posed by invasive species has not yet been recognised in all sectors. In most cases, only those species that inflict visible damages in individual sectors have been identified, but mostly there are no programmes adopted.

#### THE SEA

The Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction is responsible for a segment related to the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Plan for the Republic of Croatia which includes the occurrence of tropical algae *Caulerpa* (*C. taxifolia* and *C. racemosa*). The Minister has brought the decision concerning the appointment of the Working Group for monitoring, preventing the spread and for cleaning of tropical algae. The report on the state of sites of tropical algae *Caulerpa* in the Croatian part of the Adriatic and the programme to prevent the spread of these algae have been prepared by oceanographic institutions, which carry out activities in the field as planned by the programme.

The financial support to the programme has been provided by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, and Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development.

In order to address the issue of ballast waters and fouling from ships, the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development has appointed a Working Group with a task to prepare regulations on management and control of water ballast and sediment (by the end of 2006), which

are to determine principles and ways of supervision of marine ballast and sediment on floating and waterborn objects, no matter their land of origin ,while they are in Croatian internal waters, territorial sea and protected ecological and fishing zones. They will also contain provisions related to the prevention of the alien species' invasion into the sea, taking into consideration a recommendation of Croatian oceanographic institutions concerning ballast waters which are discharged in the Adriatic and which must not contain certain species of microorganisms according to the prepared list. The regulation should be harmonised with the European legislation and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Guidelines contained in Resolution A.868 (20) and provisions of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments with pertaining guidelines.

In January 2005, in preparation for the drafting regulation on ballast water control and management, the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development started collecting ballast water reporting forms (BWRP), thus starting to control ballast water discharge in Croatian territorial sea.

The Adriatic ballast water issue has also been addressed within the framework of the Ballast Water Working Group of Croatian-Italian-Slovenian Trilateral Commission for the protection of the Adriatic sea and coastal areas against pollution.

#### AGRICULTURE

The state is being monitored only in some segments related to invasive species that are harmful for agricultural production and human health.

#### IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

There are already many alien, especially invasive species recognized such as: *Herpestes javanicus auro-punctatus* (mongoose that cause a lot of damage on the island of Mljet since its introduction at the beginning of the last century), *Caulerpa taxifolia*, and even more dangerous *Caulerpa racemosa* (well known algae throughout Mediterranean), tropical invasive species of algae *Vomersleyella setacea*, many alien fish species (16) that threaten our endemic species (especially Prussian carp, rainbow trout, pumpkinseed, mosquito fish, largemouth bass, charr, brook trout, schelly, peled, big head carp and grass carp), then the clam *Dressenia polymorpha* (Zebra Mussel), *Orconectes limosus* and *Eriocheir sinensis* (crabs), *Rattus rattus* (rat), *Podarcis (sicula) campestris* (lizard), *Sus scrofa* (wild boar), *Ovis aries musimon* (mouflon), *Ambrosia artemisifolia* and *Amorpha fruticosa* (well known allergen plant species) and many more.

Although legislative framework is in place (Nature Protection Act, Hunting Act, Islands Act, Acts on Marine and Freshwater Fisheries, Act on Animal Welfare), still there has not been enough thought given to this matter. First of all, it would be necessary to develop the National Strategy for Invasive Alien Species should, to determine exactly the current state and make a complete list of alien species in Croatia. The next step would be to create a so called 'black list' – listing species already known as invasive, whose introduction should be under strict control; the 'grey list' – listing species on which data, from the aspect of their invasiveness, is still deficient; and the 'white list' of species that are of small risk, proven over many years, but where precaution is needed.

Also, there is a need for organized and efficient prevention of an inadvertent introduction of invasive species on the national level, and for assessment of alien species impact on biodiversity as well as for determining activities necessary to mitigate their negative impact. In order to address this successfully, it is necessary to involve all stakeholders groups such as competent state institutions, scientific institutions, NGOs as well as the general public at the national and international level.

The programme for implementation of preliminary activities related to monitoring of invasive taxa of vascular flora is under preparation (2006). Project Database of invasive taxa of vascular flora in Croatia' has begun with the State Institute for Nature Protection co-financing several activities: preparation of a preliminary list of invasive plants of Croatia's flora and the analysis from the aspect of the allochthonous origin and potential or actual invasive character; development of an appropriate classification system of invasive plants adapted to national needs; preparation of a database of invasive taxa as the extension of the already existing database (Flora Croatica Database - FCD, web interface in aspx technology, link to SQL server); formulation of a specialized web service entitled

"Invasive plants of Croatia"; automatic creation of identification cards for each species in .pdf format (the Croatian and Latin name, synonyms, taxonomy, biology and ecology of the species, photo documentation) and preparation of distribution maps.

The introduction of alien species is controlled by phytosanitary and veterinary inspection.

Public Health – *Ambrosia artemisifolia* has been recognised as an exceptionally potent allergen and programmes for its cleaning have been established.

Fisheries – the issue of introduction of alien species through ships' ballast waters and fouling has been recognised.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

- Insufficient information related to the issue
- Weak distribution and exchange of data
- Inadequate education of the broader public, especially competent inspection services (nature protection, phytosanitary and veterinary, agricultural, hunting sectors)
- Inadequate funding
- Programme implementation
- Lack of technical conditions

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XIII .**

<b>Target 6.2</b>	<b>Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details



a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		For <i>Caulerpa</i> species
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
Currently, the corresponding target has been laid down in the National Strategy (NSAP), while it is expected that the same target will be incorporated into the revised Strategy.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
The inventorying of invasive species is under way.			
<p>The Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and the 'Ruder Boškovic' Institute are implementing the programme to prevent the spread of invasive <i>Caulerpa</i> species, funded by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction and Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development.</p> <p>Within the PHARE project – implementation of NATURA – a part of the project is designed for developing management plans for one of the invasive species. The project implementation is anticipated to begin in late 2006.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Raising awareness of general public and individual sectors</li> <li>– Education</li> <li>– Intersectoral cooperation</li> <li>– Lack of staff</li> <li>– Funding</li> <li>– Flow of data – information system</li> </ul>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XIV.**

<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.</b>		
<b>Target 7.1</b>	<b>Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The climate change effect on individual animal species and forest ecosystems has been identified in the First National Report on Climate Change.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Recent surveys of climate change impact on biodiversity and inland ecosystems have			

indicated several major trends:

- the species will respond to climate change in different ways, for example by changing their migratory routes, quality of diet and other. As a result the structure of communities will be changing. Reorganisation occurring within the composition of species still have unknown impacts on the ecosystem as the whole.
- many taxa will be capable to spread and to change their ranges fast enough, following the anticipated climate change, and they will probably preserve their continuous ranges
- depending on the magnitude of climate changes, other ecological factors affecting the features of ecological niches do not have to change, and new habitats could be created
- changes in seasonal development cycles may have an adverse impact on many species, particularly on migratory species
- due to climate change the problem of alien species invasion into natural ecosystems will become even more dramatic. Dying of long-life taxa (for example trees) is likely to increase along with passing of their life optimum. Also, the anticipated land use change may additionally threaten these taxa. The rise in the degree of disturbance in natural ecosystems is likely to give origin to ecosystems of early successive stages, reduce diversity and simplify structures of communities.

According to the available data and its analysis, climate changes will affect all the three macro regions of Croatia – the lowland, the mountainous and the Mediterranean region. In the context of possible negative trends related to biodiversity, i.e. reduction of the number of species per surface unit, the greatest threat is posed to:

- The Mountainous Croatia, especially the area of Dinaric Alps. This mountain massif and adjacent areas have been recognised earlier for their exceptional biological and geomorphologic value, so their individual parts have been protected under different categories (UNESCO MAB - Velebit Biosphere Reserve, National Park Northern Velebit, National Park Paklenica, National Park Risnjak, National Park Velebit, National Park Plitvice Lakes and others). There are at least two European centres of endemism registered in this region: Velebit and Biokovo mountains.
- The Mediterranean Croatia, especially the river deltas of the Karst basin, southern Adriatic islands characteristic by a high accumulation of endemic flora and fauna, and shallow, northern part of the Adriatic in which, along with the rise of temperature, faster metabolic processes (and eutrophication) are anticipated.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

#### Box XV.

##### Target 7.2

##### Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>There is a legislative framework in place that recognises and regulates this issue. It has also been addressed in national strategic documents related to environmental, air, nature, etc. protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Protection Act</li> <li>• Air Protection Act</li> <li>• Waste Act</li> <li>• Soil Act</li> <li>• Forest Act</li> <li>• Nature Protection Act</li> <li>• Ordinance on requirements for handling waste</li> <li>• Decree on ozone layer depleting substances</li> <li>• Draft Proposal of the Waste Management Strategy</li> <li>• National Strategy for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity</li> <li>• National Environmental Protection Strategy</li> <li>• National Environmental Action Plan</li> </ul>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		
b) Inland water	X		
c) Marine and coastal	X		
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Currently, the corresponding target has been established in the National Strategy (NSAP), while it is expected that the same target will be included in the revised Strategy.</p> <p>In their strategic documents, all the sectors have laid down reduction of pollution as a target, i.e. purification of waste products or waste disposal.</p>			

Under the Ordinance on environmental impact assessment, the environmental impact assessment is mandatory for all the interventions in the environment, for the reconstruction of intervention and for the removal or termination of intervention work. The expert basis for environmental impact assessment is a study on environmental impact, which must assess the impact of intervention on the environment on the basis of factors such as meteorological, climate, hydrological, hydro geological, geological, geotechnical, seismological, pedological, bio ecological, landscape, health, sociological, rural, urban, traffic and others, which, depending on the type of intervention and environmental characteristics, affect distribution, magnitude and duration of an impact. The environmental impact assessment evaluates the admissibility of intervention to the environment.

Within the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), the National Action Plan to reduce land-sourced marine pollution has been developed. Its adoption by competent institutions is anticipated.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

There is a legislative framework in place but its implementation is yet to take hold. There are numerous projects, mostly funded from the EU pre-accession programmes, whose implementation is either under way or in preparation, aiming at the introduction of environment-friendly technologies or at the disposal of wastewaters, gases or waste.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

- financial requirements related to the introduction of environment-friendly technologies (considerable funds as well as alternative energy sources are required)

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XVI .**

<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.</b>	
<b>Target 8.1</b>	<b>Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
Similar target has been identified in strategic documents for agriculture, fisheries, forestry, hunting, etc. :		

- In the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy
- In the old and new version of Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy of the Republic of Croatia which is to be adopted soon.

Corresponding provisions have been incorporated into sectoral legislation.

Under the Nature Protection Act, one of the underlying fundamental principles of nature protection and conservation is rational use of non-renewable natural resources and sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		
b) Inland water	X		
c) Marine and coastal	X		
d) Dry and subhumid land		N/A	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The principle of sustainable resource management and sustainable development is the main principle of the development of the Republic of Croatia. Therefore corresponding targets have been incorporated into strategic documents of individual sectors.

#### FORESTS

Along with traditional forestry policy, which supports the conservation of biodiversity, one of the forest management goals is also to maintain forests in high productive capacity.

#### AGRICULTURE

Act on Agriculture (Official Gazette 66/01, 83/02) emphasises the importance of conservation and promotion of natural resources through sustainable ecologic agriculture:

**Article 3, paragraph 5:** "Conservation of natural resources by promoting sustainable, primarily ecological agriculture."

Maintaining traditional knowledge and skills in agriculture, which perish due to abandoning of the traditional management methods, is encouraged. Due to the war, many remote areas, in which agriculture and especially cattle breeding were the major sources of subsistence, have been deserted. A part of these areas is contaminated with land mines.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
Natural resources are mostly managed within sectors of forestry, water management, agriculture, hunting and fisheries. All these activities have been regulated by law, and the existing regulations take into account the need for sustainability of natural resources management. However, in practice a far stronger emphasis is placed on economic component of exploitation rather than on implementation of protective measures. Relatively high state of conservation of biological resources of Croatia at the European level can be primarily attributed to the general economic situation and other causes from the past. Therefore one of the top priorities is to harmonise other relevant legislation and to integrate measures for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XVII.**

<b>Target 8.2</b>	<b>Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			



**Box XVIII.**

<b>Goal 9</b>	<b>Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.</b>		
<b>Target 9.1</b>	<b>Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
N/A			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XIX.**

**Target 9.2**

**Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No

N/A

b) Yes, the same as the global target

c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established

Please provide details below.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		N/A	
b) Inland water		N/A	
c) Marine and coastal		N/A	
d) Dry and subhumid land		N/A	
e) Forest		N/A	
f) Mountain		N/A	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XX.**

<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.</b>		
<b>Target 10.1</b>	<b>All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Croatia is not a Party to the ITPGR, therefore the only provisions being followed are those of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Cartagena Protocol.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	

e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
The Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/05) lays down that the results of research and development ensuing from use of genetic material are to be utilized in an equitable manner pursuant to special regulations and that nobody may become the owner of genetic material produced on the basis of the genetic material of wild taxa.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XXI.**

<b>Target 10.2</b>	<b>Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Given Croatia's socio-economic position and biodiversity, Croatian scientists and technologists, as a rule, do not utilise genetic resources from abroad, unless these involve resources that are commercially already available and patented abroad.			

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XXII.**

<b>Goal 11</b>	<b>Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.</b>		
<b>Target 11.1</b>	<b>New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Due to its current socio-economic status Croatia is mostly a beneficiary of financial programmes of other Parties and international funds.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XXIII.**

<b>Target 11.2</b>	<b>Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Due to its current socio-economic status Croatia is mostly a beneficiary of financial programmes of other Parties and international funds.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			

Please provide details below.
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

### Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/9, annex, adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. The Conference of the Parties considered the Strategy as a pilot approach for the use of outcome oriented targets under the Convention. In decision VII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to integrate the targets into the reporting framework for the Third National Reports. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

#### Box XXIV.

<b>Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
For the time being there is an integrated list of vascular plant species of Croatia as well as the Red Data Book of vascular plants of Croatia. All data are stored in the FloraCroatia Database, and most of them are available to the public at the web page <a href="http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd/search.aspx">http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd/search.aspx</a> . Integrated access is granted to certain scientific institutions and faculties.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X



b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The 1999 National Strategy (NSAP) defines the action plan for inventoring of biological and landscape diversity of Croatia and the action plan for mapping biodiversity; however, the specific action plan, which would match the above global target, has not been defined.</p> <p>The National Environmental Action Plan lays down a number of measures needed to achieve goals in the field of biodiversity. Some measures are general and they refer to the implementation of <b>general objectives (C1)</b> such as an integrated inventoring, mapping, threat assessment, monitoring, and development and implementation of biodiversity protection action plans.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The checklist of Croatian flora has been published in a scientific journal <i>Natura Croatica</i> (Nat. Croat. 9, Suppl. 1: 1-324.).</p> <p>Faculty of Science and Botanic Society, financially supported by the state and international funds, have prepared the database of vascular plants which is available online (<a href="http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd/search.aspx">http://hirc.botanic.hr/fcd/search.aspx</a>) and which is continuously updated.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Under the Nature Protection Act, the tasks of the State Institute for Nature Protection also include inventoring and monitoring of biodiversity on the territory of Croatia. The plan of activities needed for inventoring is currently under development and it will include the inventoring of all plant species, taking into consideration all the databases established so far and all the institutions that created them.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXV.**

<b>Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes (part of it)	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The Red Data Book - Nikolic T., Topic J.(2005): The Red Data Book of vascular plants , Ministry of Culture, State Institute for Nature Protection - was published.</p> <p>The National Environmental Action Plan lays down a number of measures needed to achieve goals in the field of biodiversity. Some measures are general and they refer to the implementation of <b>general objectives (C1)</b> such as integrated inventorying, mapping, threat assessment, monitoring, and developing and implementation of biodiversity protection action plans.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The need for the development of an action plan for threat assessment of individual biodiversity components was identified in the 1999 National Strategy (NSAP).</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>After 1999 the work on developing and publishing Red Data Books of threatened species of individual groups of plants and animals began. Within these activities the Red Book of vascular flora of Croatia was published in 2005. On the basis of the Red Book of vascular flora and the data on distribution of species included in the lists of the EU directives and international conventions to which Croatia is a Party, a new Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa came into force in January 2006, which covered plant species threatened both at national and European level.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXVI.**

**Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

Currently there is a similar target that has been established in the National Strategy, whereas the same target is expected to be established in the revised version of the Strategy.

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

- Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa (Official Gazette 7/06)
- Regulation on Collecting Wild Growing Plants (Official Gazette 7/04)

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

On the basis of the Red Data Books, the monitoring plan for threatened plant species as well as corresponding manuals are currently being developed within the CARDS Project – Institutional Strengthening of the State Institute for Nature Protection. Public institutions administering protected areas conduct a number of smaller-scale projects related to education and protection of individual threatened plant species.

The Regulation on Collecting Wild Growing Plants prescribes quotas for collecting of individual species. Quotas are determined on an annual basis, and it is required to report on annual quantities of collected species, which is to be prepared by the State Institute for Nature Protection based on the delivered data.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXVII.**

**Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

The National Strategy (NSAP) has identified the need for additional protection of naturally valuable areas, which include all the world's ecological regions represented in Croatia.  
 Up to now Croatia has protected 11.82% of the Mediterranean region, 7.55% of the continental region, 16.69% of the Alpine region and 6.08% of the Pannonian region.  
 The protection procedure for several more localities is under way and the percentage of protected areas is expected to go up to 9.4% of the Croatian territory in 2006.  
 Areas will be additionally protected through the National Ecological Network, which also comprises of all ecological regions of Croatia.  
 The first draft of National Ecological Network area covers 69.8% (13.9% of the core) of Croatia's territory.

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

The corresponding target has been identified in the 1999 National Strategy (NSAP), and it is expected that the same target will be incorporated in the revised Strategy.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

In Croatia there are four world's ecological regions (the Mediterranean, Alpine, Continental and Pannonian). It has protected 11.82% of the Mediterranean region, 7.55% of the Continental region, 16.69% of the Alpine region and 6.08% of the Pannonian region in Croatia.  
 According to the Ministry of Culture's Register of Protected Natural Values (status as per 15 July 2005) in total there are 444 protected nature parts designated under various categories (Table 4). Today the total surface of protected areas in Croatia amounts to 512,480.35 hectares or 5.85% of total territory of Croatia or 9.06% of the Croatian mainland. The largest portion of the protected territory is related to national and nature parks (4.55% of total territory).

See I)

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

In 2006 and 2007 it is planned to designate two new Nature Parks (the Lastovo archipelago and the Lower Neretva ).

Also, numerous new areas are in the process of preventive protection or/and designation as protected, including the area of the river Mrežnica and the Mura and Drava river system.

The work on the proposal of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 network in Croatia continues. It is expected that a minimum of 10% of all ecological regions in Croatia will be protected with these mechanisms.

The Ministry of Culture currently works on developing a nature protection system of the Republic of Croatia, which is supposed to provide for standards in management of protected areas and other protected values.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- Difficulties in developing the system to support the implementation of the Convention and low level of all aspects of the implementation due to the lack of standard implementation structure of the Convention on Biodiversity (the Office of the Convention, National Council, Implementation Committee and Working Groups)
- Lack of regulations and partial harmonisation/non-harmonisation with the EU regulations (the situation has improved after the negotiations for Croatia's accession to the EU started)
- Undefined conditions, methods and models of involvement and participation of other state administration bodies and other entities in the implementation
- Low level of communication between interest groups, institutions and sectors
- Lack of capacity within administrative and technical services of competent bodies and institutions as well as lack of specific knowledge and low level of competence at all levels of education
- Absence of integrated system to access, dispose with and exchange information and lack of international cooperation and linkages
- Lack of funding for the nature protection sector
- Weak cooperation between institutions responsible for nature protection and those generally involved in research, monitoring and protection of biodiversity
- Insufficient data and a small number of experts for individual components of biodiversity (taxonomists)
- Lack of scientific evaluation of expert work in biology
- Centralised system
- Lack of education at all levels

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXVIII.**

<b>Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
See Target 4.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The corresponding target has been identified in the 1999 NSAP, and it is expected that the same target will be incorporated into the revised Strategy.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
See Target 4. III)	
Botanical and forests reserves constitute 0.584% of protected areas while national and nature parks account to 8.6% of protected areas.	
The global target is expected to be achieved through the establishment of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 network.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
See Target 4. IV)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXIX.**

<b>Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p><b>AGRICULTURE</b></p> <p>Among its objectives, the Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy of the Republic of Croatia (2002) sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– sustainable use of natural resources, conservation and protection of environment</li> <li>– conservation of natural resources by promoting sustainable, primarily ecological agriculture</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy also sets out that it is 'necessary to provide for sustainable use of natural resources by incorporating the measures for the conservation of biodiversity into all activities in connection with spatial planning and use of natural resources (forestry, agriculture, hunting, fisheries, water management and other). Given the importance of promoting the protection of landscape and biological diversity of rural areas and of promoting ecological production of agricultural products, it is necessary to establish a closer cooperation in planning and coordinating these activities between respective ministries (MAF and MEPPP) and institutions (State Water Directorate), local self-government, technical services (Croatian Agricultural Extension Institute - CAEI, Croatian Livestock Centre - CLC, Croatian Public Health Institute) and non-governmental organisations.'</p> <p>Draft Strategy for Ecological Agricultural Development for 2005, among its strategic objectives, lays down: 'improving natural resources which are used in agriculture, especially in border and vulnerable areas, with the aim to reduce pollution by nitrates, phosphates and pesticides and the conservation of biodiversity and the eco-system.' In addition, it is emphasised that 'the Ministry of Agriculture should cooperate with Ministries of Environmental Protection and Culture in a joint implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, especially the Convention on Biodiversity, through ecological agriculture. Project proposal related to ecological agriculture, especially in protected areas, should be included in the international schemes (Natura 2000; SAPARD, Global Environmental Fund, etc.).'</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target These are inherited problems related to the fragmentation of privately owned land, a constant loss of agricultural lands as a result of urbanisation, undefined management of state -owned lands and a considerable portion of uncultivated and neglected lands. In addition, the irrational use of large quantities of mineral fertilizers and pesticides presents a big problem on arable lands. Croatia also faces a specific problem related to the large proportion of agricultural land being contaminated by mines.
VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXX.**

<b>Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	



The Nature Protection Act defines protected and strictly protected species.

Pursuant to the Nature Protection Act (Article 19) a strictly protected taxon is defined as:

- wild taxon in danger of extinction on the territory of the Republic of Croatia,
- endemic species with a small natural range,
- wild taxon protected by virtue of an international treaty to which the Republic of Croatia is a signatory and which is in force, having been ratified by the Republic of Croatia.

Whereas a protected taxon is defined as:

- indigenous wild taxon that is vulnerable or rare and is not threatened by extinction on the territory of the Republic of Croatia,
- wild taxon that is not endangered, but due to its appearance is likely to be confused with endangered wild taxon,
- wild taxon protected by virtue of an international treaty to which the Republic of Croatia is a signatory and which is in force.

A protected indigenous domesticated taxon is defined as the endangered inherited plant variety and/or animal breed developed as a result of traditional breeding and shall constitute an integral part of Croatian natural heritage.

Under the Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/05, Article 97) it is forbidden to pick, collect, destroy, cut or uproot the wild growing strictly protected plants and fungi and to hold and trade in the wild growing strictly protected plants and fungi. Strictly protected animals must by prohibition not be deliberately captured, kept and/or killed; deliberately harmed and their evolution forms, nests or broods, as well as the reproduction or resting sites destroyed; deliberately disturbed, particularly during the time of breeding, rearing young, migration and hibernation, should such disturbance prove significant with regard to the objectives of protection; deliberately destroyed or their eggs picked up from natural environment or kept empty; hidden, kept, bred, traded in, imported, exported, transported and alienated or in any other way acquired and stuffed. Protection also extends to wild growing plants and fungi, as well as wild animals found in a national park, strict nature reserve, and special nature reserve in the case of wild growing plants, fungi and wild animals owing to which the area is protected in the first place, as well as all the underground animals even where not protected as individual taxa, insofar as the act on protection of such area provides for otherwise for individual species. The Ministry is to be notified of any incidental capturing and/or killing of strictly protected animals. The Ministry is to keep the records on incidentally captured and/or killed strictly protected animals, and to decide on protective measures with the aim of preventing negative impact on individual species.

Using protected wild taxa is to be authorized in a manner and in a quantity ensuring that their population at the national or at local level are not endangered (NPA, Article 94). The Minister and the minister competent for agriculture, forestry and water management, each one within his/her competence, are to lay down the protective measures for protected wild taxa which include: seasonal prohibition on use and other restrictions on the use of populations; temporary or local prohibition on use for the sake of regenerating populations to a satisfactory level; and/or regulating trade, holding for commercial and transport purposes of live and dead specimens. The Ministry competent for nature protection keeps records of the method and intensity of use of protected wild taxa in order to establish and monitor the state of populations. Where established that owing to use, the protected wild taxon is under threat, the Minister may issue an order prohibiting or restricting the use of such taxon.

Under the provision of the same act, in national parks all plant, animal and fungi species are treated as strictly protected.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

Inventorizing and mapping of distribution of nationally and globally threatened species are underway.

This process is in its advanced stage in the protected areas. Public institutions managing the remaining protected areas also have certain programmes in place for identified threatened species. Through initiated inventorizing of flora and fauna of Croatia as well as through the process of selection of Natura 2000 area, both the status of populations and the status of protection of threatened species will be determined. Their protection and conservation on the territory of Croatia is expected to be established through full implementation of Natura 2000.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

The implementation of a number of projects related to inventorizing of biodiversity elements, with an emphasis on threatened species is underway.

For example:

Projects of inventorizing of inland flora and fauna as well of inland water fauna in the area of protected nature parts.

The inventorizing of individual groups of invertebrates and fungi has been initiated.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXI.**

**Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible *Ex-situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXII.**

**Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

In order to improve the current state, the 1999 National Strategy (NSAP) has laid down the following objectives:

**Strategic objective 10:** Protection of genetic diversity of domesticated taxa

Strategic guidelines:

1. to undertake inventorying of native and threatened domesticated taxa
2. to implement priority action plans for all critically threatened domesticated taxa.

**Action plans:**

- protections of domestic animals *in situ*: the island pony, donkeys, the ruda sheep, the pig of Turopolje, the black Slavonian pig, 'buša' cattle of Lika, the horse of Medimurje, goats (the Croatian white and the Croatian spotted goat), the Istrian cattle and Slavonian podolian cattle, the horse of Posavina, the Istrian sheep, the tzigai sheep, the turkey of Zagorje, the Croatian hen, and action plan for the protection of genetic diversity of bees in Croatia
- establishment of the Croatian Bank of Plant Genes
- setting up a genetic diagnostic laboratory for domesticated animals
- construction of a seed-production laboratory
- arrangement of an experimental plot for the Croatian Bank of Plant Genes
- establishment of a bank of domestic animals genes

Agricultural and Fisheries Strategy highlights the importance of providing for the wellbeing of Croatian agriculture and science through:

- Evaluation and conservation of plant genetic resources.
- Efficient use and improvement of autochthonous genetic resources of cultivated plants representing an important national value.
- Rational use of natural resources by creating, marketing and using purpose-specific cultivars of agricultural plants.

For the purpose of genetic resources conservation the Croatian Bank of Plant Genes has been established but its activities are yet to take hold.

The Republic of Croatia has been a member of the IPGRI – International Plant Genetic Resources Institute since 1991, taking an active part in the following thematic projects:

- Research on the Conservation of the European Forest Genetic Resources (EUFORGEN - Euforgen Forest Genetic Resources Programme);
- European Cooperative Programme for Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP/GR - European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Network). Croatia's activities within the IPGRI are coordinated by the Forestry Institute Jastrebarsko and the Institute for Seed and Seedlings.

Since 2004 Croatia has participated in the SEEDNet (South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources) programme. The programme is financially assisted by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

**The aim of the SEEDNet programme is to:**

- contribute to the establishment and strengthening of national programmes on PGR in order to secure the conservation of plant genetic resources (PGR) in the region,
- promote a sustainable utilisation of PGR, and
- strengthen collaboration, networking and linkages among various stakeholders at both the national and regional levels through pooling of resources and use of comparative advantages available in the various institutions and countries

The Republic of Croatia has participated in the work of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, UPOV) since 1 September 2001 when it became a member.

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The need for the conservation of genetic diversity of traditional varieties and breeds has been identified in numerous sectoral programmes.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Pursuant to the Act on Seeds, Planting Material and Registration of Varieties of Agricultural Plants, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has established the Plant Genetic Resources Commission in charge of the preparation of the National Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, regulating, among other things, the use and transfer of plant genetic resources in agriculture.</p> <p>Act on Forest Reproductive Material (Official Gazette 140/05) regulates the production, trade and import of forest reproductive material; the production and trade of Christmas trees; requirements to be complied with by reproductive material suppliers in the registration procedure; the procedure of registration of seed facility into the Register of Forest Seed Facilities; the establishment and use of seed material supplies; forest trees genetic bank and seed bank; setting up of the Reproductive Material Commission; obtaining, use and exchange of data and information; costs related to implementation of measures as provided for in this Act; bodies responsible for the enforcement of the Act; as well as supervision over its implementation.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 6 of the Act, reproductive material is classified in categories: "source-identified", "selected", "qualified" and "tested", thus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– reproductive material under the category "source-identified" includes seed material, plant parts and planting material of forest trees derived from forest stands within specific region of provenance.</li> <li>– reproductive material under the category "selected" includes seed material, plant parts and planting material derived from seed stands within specific region of provenance, which differ in terms of phenotype from populations of other provenance,</li> <li>– reproductive material under the category "qualified" includes seed material, plant parts and planting material of forest trees, which was assessed on the basis of phenotype characteristics of parents, derived from clone or generative plantations, families of half-relatives or full relatives, clones or clone blends,</li> <li>– reproductive material classified under the category "tested" includes seed material, plant parts and planting material of forest trees derived from clone or generative plantations, whose superiority has been proven by comparative tests or genetic check-ups of parents' trees in progenies' tests.</li> </ul>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXIII.**

**Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

The main law that regulates the introduction of allochthonous species is the Nature Protection Act. Beside that, there are also the Hunting Act and Islands Act, which incorporate rules for alien species of wildlife and prohibit the introduction of allochthonous species. There are also Acts on Marine and Freshwater Fisheries that regulate farming and introduction of marine/freshwater alien species and Animal Welfare Act that forbids releasing pets and prevents the introduction of alien species in that way.

See Target 6.1. III)

The need for developing the National Strategy for Alien and Invasive Species Management and for integrated lists thereof has been indicated in National Report on the Environment

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

The management plan for one of identified invasive allochthonous species will be developed within the PHARE project.

The development of an integrated list of alien species is in progress, and the inventorying of particular allochthonous species is also under way. It is expected that, along with an integrated inventorying of flora and fauna, the data on invasive and alien species as well as on their distribution and degree of expansion will be obtained, which will provide foundation for developing management plans.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXIV.**

<b>Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes (under way)	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Regulated by the Nature Protection Act.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The CITES provisions have been incorporated into the Nature Protection Act and the Regulation on trans-boundary traffic and trade in protected species. The authority responsible for the CITES implementation is the Ministry of Culture, while the inspectional supervision over its implementation has been entrusted to the Nature Protection Inspection operating within the Ministry as its integral part.</p> <p>Four scientific bodies responsible for the CITES implementation have been appointed: Faculty of Science - University of Zagreb, Institute for Ornithology of Croatian Academy of Science and Art, Croatian Natural History Museum and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Institute for Biology.</p> <p>The species enlisted on the CITES list are strictly protected or protected by virtue of the Nature Protection Act (Regulation on Protection of Wild Taxa).</p> <p>Regular training of customs service and border police is organised in order to prevent illegal trade in protected and strictly protected species.</p>	



IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)
Continued education of customs, inspection and police officers as well as of general public.
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Lack of technical and communication support.
VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXV.**

<b>Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXVI.**

**Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

(N/A)

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

(N/A)

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXVII .**

<b>Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>Pursuant to the Nature Protection Act, the Ministry, State Institute and other expert and administrative bodies competent for nature protection must provide for public character of the data related to the state of and protection of nature, unless special legislation provides for secrecy of data. The same bodies must provide mass communication media at their request with the information concerning the state of and protection of nature.</p> <p>The target has been recognised in the NSAP.</p> <p>15. Strategic objective - education To encourage all methods of education in the field of biological and landscape diversity protection at all levels of the schooling system (in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports)</p> <p>16. Strategic objective – public information To promote all methods of public information regarding the issues of the protection of biological and landscape diversity and to encourage participation of the public in protection activities.</p> <p>The bodies competent for nature protection, in their own education and public information programmes, emphasise the importance of the protection of biodiversity, including biodiversity of flora, particularly of endemic and protected species through several projects aimed at informing the public about the flora of protected areas. NGOs, schools, faculties and other expert institutions are included in education through various actions organised by the Ministry within its regular programme.</p> <p>THE GLOBE PROGRAMME – Since 2005 over 130 schools in Croatia have been involved in the programme, which makes Croatia one of the countries with the highest percentage of GLOBE schools in the entire community of the countries involved in the programme. A large number of our schools accomplish the programme tasks in a very active and creative way, regularly conducting measurements and feeding their data into the integral world's database.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The target has been incorporated into pre -schooling, schooling and higher education programmes in terms of general biodiversity. However, there is no specific programme addressing plants.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

Since 1999 the public awareness about protection of biodiversity has increased. Several public information programmes have been launched, addressing important biodiversity elements, including flora – through various media outlets from postal stamps, posters, stickers, leaflets to short TV programmes on essential flora elements.

A number of projects are being carried out. State institutions (the Ministry of Culture, State Institute for Nature Protection, public authorities for protected areas), county authorities for nature protection and county institutes for physical planning as well as NGOs implement a number of educational projects dedicated to the protection of individual plant species as well as to the protection of biodiversity in general. They are also involved in public awareness activities including publishing various leaflets, posters, brochures and organising lectures and workshops.

In protected nature parts, all public entities carry out flora inventoring and monitoring projects and organise lectures and workshops in order to inform the public about the flora of a particular area and the needs concerning the protection of an individual species or community.

For example:

The national system of biodiversity monitoring that is established through the CRO-NEN project also provides for public information and public participation through monitoring and protection of individual valuable plant species. The protection of rare plant communities, remaining in several small sites (sands, bogs and fens), has been implemented through the CARDS project (Institutional Strengthening of the State Institute for Nature Protection), which provides for the involvement of local community and public institutions administering county protected areas.

Education involves NGOs, mountaineering clubs and foresters, and it is also organised through school sections of mountaineering clubs. County institutes for physical planning have programmes, which include education on nature protection issues as well.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXVIII.**

**Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The number of experts in plant taxonomy and ecology (as well as in other components of biodiversity) is in a constant decline which is, first of all, due to the lack of scientific evaluation of the competence in this field. Most experts are employed in scientific institutions (faculties and institutes) where employment and promotion opportunities in the field of their expertise do not depend on the evaluation of their research work.</p> <p>The situation is expected to improve by increasing human resources capacity of the State Institute for Nature Protection and public institutions administering protected areas through professional development of young people in specific areas of taxonomy.</p> <p>Regrettably, at the moment there is lack of both a broader understanding and financial support to resolve this issue. Inadequate significance is given to the need to develop and employ highly qualified staff required for achieving the goals of the Convention in this field.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
See III)	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXIX.**

<b>Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	

b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The earliest beginnings of such activities can be seen through the development of the nature protection system at the national, regional and local level.</p> <p>The organisation of the Croatian Gene Bank was initiated (for agricultural taxa); in botanical gardens there are certain collections of wild plant species. The drafting of the proposal of important plant areas as a part of activities related to the development of National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 proposal for Croatia is underway.</p> <p>In the next 2 years, through the State Institute for Nature Protection's projects, it is planned to establish an integrated information system, which should facilitate building up the network for the protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>The Republic of Croatia has been participating in the SEEDNet programme since 2004. This 10-year programme will boost conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources in South East Europe with the financial and technical help of Sweden.</p> <p>The following activities will be carried out within SEEDNet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and management of national PGR programmes</li> <li>• PGR policy development</li> <li>• Inventorying, collecting and exchange of PGR</li> <li>• Characterisation and evaluation of PGR</li> <li>• Documentation of information on PGR and traditional knowledge related to plant use</li> <li>• Development of infrastructure and supply of equipment for PGR</li> <li>• Conservation <i>ex situ</i>, <i>in situ</i>, <i>in vitro</i>, and on farm</li> <li>• Training, education and raising of public awareness</li> </ul>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XL.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has affirmed that the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention (decision II/8). The Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, endorsed the description of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance and recommended the application of the principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties agreed that the priority at this time should be facilitating implementation of the ecosystem approach. Please provide relevant information by responding to the following questions.

<b>3. ?<sup>1</sup></b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	X
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

<b>4. ?</b> Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	X Forests have been managed according to ecological and economical principles for many years now (20)
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

<b>5.</b> Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, within the country	X
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

<sup>1</sup> Please note that all the questions marked with ? have been previously covered in the second national reports and some thematic reports.



<b>6. ?</b> Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.	
Several elements of the ecosystem approach can be found in transboundary projects related to river ecosystems and the sea. The ecosystem approach has been applied in the EU European Marine Strategy decisions in which Croatia is involved.	

<b>7.</b> Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	
Numerous national and international projects are underway at the national and regional level, which in the context of the protection have components of exchange of experience, capacity building and public information.	

<b>8.</b> Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	
Since 1999 the institutional and legislative framework of nature protection and other sectors has considerably improved in terms of implementing the goals of the Convention. While the idea of ecosystem approach has been incorporated in corresponding legislation and strategies, the approach as such has not been specifically singled out.	
The Nature Protection Act provides for the protection of important ecological systems through the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures in use of natural resources and spatial	

planning as well as through protection of habitat types.

Strategies in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, environmental and nature protection, etc. encourage sustainable development and, above all, cooperation between and among all institutions responsible for individual segments of biodiversity in achieving this goal. Especially, the new system in nature protection is used to attempt to establish a joint approach to the protection of biodiversity.

The actualization and implementation of the ecosystem approach is expected to occur through the implementation of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 system.

## C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

### Article 5 – Cooperation

9. **?** Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

No	
Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	X
Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

#### Bilateral:

The Netherlands – forest habitats, wetlands, etc.

Austria – river areas

Norway – Integral management of Coastal areas with emphasis on mariculture and fish resources

Monaco - Protection of biodiversity on the Island of Mljet

- Protection of dolphins - Island of Mali Lošinj

- Biological and ecological valorization of coastal area of Islands Cutin Veli and Cutin Mali with the aim of establishing protected area

#### Regional:

INTERREG – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Drava river Basin Management

INTERREG II - Project ADRI.FISH (Istrian County), KART II Project (Institute for Geology),

SAWWTACA - Croatian Waters Ltd

SEEDNet – see Target 15.

#### Multilateral:

- RAMSAR – Preparation of the Lower Neretva Trans-boundary Management Plan
- UNEP – Mediterranean Action Plan, The UN Programme for Environment (UNEP/MAP) - preparations for designation of special protected areas of Croatia (SPAMI areas) in the framework of Protocol on special protected areas and biodiversity in Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)
- Designation of Adriatic Sea as vulnerable marine area according to the Guidance of the International Marine Organization (IMO). Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development initiated regional support of all Adriatic states in preparation of the Proposal for this designation

<b>10. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 A)</b>	
No	
No, but consultations are under way	X
Yes, some mechanisms and networks have been established (please provide details below)	
Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below)	
Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.	
<p>Croatia has been involved in international projects concerning nature protection in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The projects are related to various areas and various components of biodiversity, for example they are related to the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, to rivers and areas connected with them (Sava, Mura, Drava, Neretva, Danube), etc. An active part has also been taken in establishing and maintaining of ecological network as part of the PEEN, Natura 2000, Emerald Network, in Green Belt projects, etc.</p>	

<b>11. Is your country taking steps to harmonize national policies and programmes, with a view to optimizing policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in the implementation of various multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and relevant regional initiatives at the national level? (decision VI/20)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but steps are under consideration	
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	X
Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.	
<p>The Republic of Croatia is a Party to all relevant international conventions in the field of nature protection: the Bern Convention, the Bonn Convention, the CITES, the Ramsar Convention, the Barcelona Convention and SPA Protocol, the Convention on European Landscapes.</p> <p>In the process of adjustment of its national legislation and institutional framework to the EU legislation and system, Croatia has been transferring the provisions of the European legislation into national regulations in all sectors.</p> <p>The goal related to intersectoral cooperation and harmonisation of legislative system has been clearly marked in all sectoral strategies.</p>	

**Box XLI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

### Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

**12.** Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.

The 1999 NSAP contains objectives corresponding to those of the Conventions. Currently, the Strategy revision process is still under way and it is expected that the same objectives, even more adjusted to the objectives of the Convention, will be contained in the new Strategy, which should be adopted over the next 2 years.

The main objectives of the Convention are also followed in other sectoral strategies (physical planning, water management, agriculture, environmental protection, waters, forestry, etc.).

However the optimal implementation of aforementioned strategies has not been achieved.

**13. ?** Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans? (decisions II/7 and III/9)

a) No	
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The targets set up in the Biodiversity Strategy (NSAP) have been defined as priority, short-term, medium-term or long-term targets. However, no concrete timelines for their implementation have been specified. It is expected that such an approach of specifying deadlines will be adopted in the revised version of the Strategy.

Some other sectoral strategies contain plans with specific deadlines.

**14.** Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

The NSAP priority action plans:

**LANDSCAPE PROTECTION**

Elaboration of the Basic Landscape Elements of Croatia

**PROTECTION OF WETLAND AND WATERS**

Development of the national wetland conservation and management programme

Determination of potential new Ramsar sites and nationally protected areas

Preparation of the management plan for the Ramsar site of Lower Neretva

Preparation of the management plan for the Ramsar site of Kopacki rit - under preparation

Legal and practical protection of the remaining moors - partially implemented

Protection of aquatic and wetland habitats on islands

Rehabilitation of underground water pollution sources in the surroundings of Ogulin

Initiating the development of protection and action plans for all wetlands of special importance according to inventorying and evaluation procedures

**PROTECTION OF KARST AND UNDERGROUND**

Preparation of the Velebit Mt. management plan - UNESCO MAB - under preparation

Preparation of the Biokovo Mt. management plan

Protection of the endemic *Degenia velebitica* - partially within the KEC project

Rehabilitation of major sources of karst underground water pollution, particularly in the Ogulin area

**PROTECTION OF FORESTS**

Protection and rehabilitation of the Motovun forest sections including constant monitoring

**PROTECTION OF THE SEA**

Estimates of fishing the available biological resources and optimally possible (permitted) exploitation levels

Implementation of Strategic action plan for biodiversity (SAP-BIO):

-negative influence of fisheries on endangered species and vulnerable habitats

-protection of biodiversity as a part of integral coastal area planing

-Action plan for fighting negative influence of hunting, poaching and commercial collecting on coastal area biodiversity and introduction of new deer species on islands

Protection of loggerhead turtle against accidental catches - educational SINP and organisation "Blue World"

National action plan within the framework of the Strategic action programme for the prevention of land-sourced marine pollution

Construction of recipient units for oily water from ships in international ports

Unfortunately, a small number of targets have been implemented. The priorities of the revised Strategy, which is expected, will be definitely modified. With more specifically defined implementers and timelines it should be easier to organise the implementation of targets.

The revision will include the results of other National action plans as well as action plans from SAP-MED and SAP-BIO

**15.** Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as equitable benefit sharing have been integrated into the strategic documents of forestry and hunting sectors.

**16.** Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)

a) Yes	X
b) No	

I) If **YES**, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses

a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	<p>Croatia is a signatory to international conventions for the protection of migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bern Convention - Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats</li> <li>• EU Regulation on Wildlife Trade</li> <li>• AEWA – Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</li> </ul> <p>All migratory species inhabiting the habitats in Croatia are listed as autochthonous species and enjoy the same protection as other species.</p>
--	--

	<p>Ecological features of an area – migratory routes of animals (NPA)</p> <p>Conservation of natural migratory routes of game animals (Hunting Act – Articles 11 and 69; Nature Protection Act – Article 87 and 97)</p> <p>Migratory species have been taken into account in the process of drafting the National Ecological Network.</p> <p>The Strategy (NSAP) includes the strategic objective related to the protection of species (wolf, bear, lynx, dolphin, migratory birds, etc.).</p>
b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Wetland ecosystems have been laid down as a priority.
c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	Construction of so called 'green bridges' enabling the crossing of animals across roads which go through their habitats
d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	<p>Monitoring of large carnivores (wolf, lynx, bear)</p> <p>Monitoring of birds: waterfowl, storks, Great Bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>)</p>
e) Transboundary movement	<p>Given the size of its territory, the Republic of Croatia is sharing the populations of larger mammals and birds with its neighbouring countries and for many years now it has been cooperating with countries on issues of monitoring migratory species, especially large carnivores, most of all with Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>- Monitoring of wolves, bears and lynx</p>
II) If <b>NO</b> , please briefly indicate below	
a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

## Biodiversity and Climate Change

<b>17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)</b>	
a) No	X
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	

<b>18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
<p>THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Capacity building activities for the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change started within the preparation of the First National Report on Climate Change, which was submitted, to the Secretariat of the Convention in February 2002. In this respect the measures outlined in the Report represent the Action plan for climate change mitigation or the basis for the preparation of such a plan.</p> <p>The implementation of the Convention should be carried out through the establishment of national programme, which would provide the framework for systematic addressing of the climate change issue consistent with established goals. The National Climate Programme will consist of two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capacity Building Programme (KLIMAKap), which will focus on building institutional, legislative, organisational and scientific capacity and strengthening human resources and public awareness on climate and development issues.</li> <li>2. Implementation Programme (KLIMApr), which will include activities related to project preparation and implementation as well as necessary supporting activities at the implementation level in terms of regulations, technical manuals, support services, incentive measures, supervision and monitoring, and project realisation.</li> </ol> <p>The Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction has initiated implementation of the project 'Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol'. The main goal of the project is to establish and build legislative, institutional and organisational competences and capacities and to promote education and public awareness on climate change with the aim to implement commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The project specific objectives are:</p>	



- C1: Detailed analysis of the capacity-building needs of the system for the implementation of the UNFCCC
- C2: Preparation of the National Implementation Strategy and Action Programme
- C3: Preparation of statutory provisions
- C4: Preparation of technical guidelines for the development of sectoral operational programmes
- C5: Setting up of the mechanism for monitoring the UNFCCC implementation
- C6: Implementation of Kyoto Protocol flexible mechanisms
- C7: Education and raising public awareness

The Second National Report on Climate Change for the 1996-2003 period, pursuant to Decision 4/CP.8., is being prepared. It will be delivered to the Secretariat of the Convention in 2006.

#### THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

For the time being, the Convention has not been formally implemented in any regulation, nor are there any NGOs in this moment that directly address this issue. The national focal point has been appointed and the National Commission to Combat Desertification has been founded, which initiated the preparation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention pursuant to Articles 9 and 10 of the UNCCD. The working groups for agriculture, forestry, climate, soil and waters have been constituted, which have developed the conceptual project of the programme for specific areas and are currently working on the preparation of the National Action Plan – National Programme to Mitigate the Consequences of Drought and to Combat Land Degradation which will contain the following general objectives:

- C1: Building an institutional and organisational framework
- C2: Harmonisation of legislation and integration into sectoral regulations and policies
- C3: Preparation of expert studies
- C4: Fostering scientific and expertise work
- C5: Strengthening intersectoral cooperation and coordination
- C6: Implementation at the local and regional level
- C7: Information, education, cooperation
- C8: Setting up the system of financing the UNCCD implementation

#### **Box XLII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. ? On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?	
a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	
Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
<p>Under the 2003 and 2005 Nature Protection Act, inventorying and monitoring are technical tasks performed by the State Institute for Nature Protection. Within the framework of these activities the SINP has also developed the National classification of habitats and habitat map.</p> <p>There is an ongoing inventorying of species. The checklists for individual groups have been made (for vascular plants and vertebrates) while the inventorying of individual groups of invertebrates and fungi is under way.</p> <p>There are no ongoing programmes to identify components of biological diversity components at the genetic level.</p>	

20. ? On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?	
a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes )	
Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
<p>There is no systematic monitoring in place yet, but its integrated development has been initiated. For specific species (for example large carnivores) monitoring is conducted through their management plans, but there are also monitoring programmes for other species such as <i>Caulerpa</i> and some bird species.</p>	

21. ? On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any of the following key threats to biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details)	X

below)

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

**b** – There is a long-standing programme of inventorying and monitoring of the spread of invasive algae *Caulerpa* – led by the Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries and the "Ruder Boškovic" Institute. There are also some other invasive species monitoring systems, which are being developed.

+ See Target 6.1 III) and Target 10 III)

There are some public institutions administering protected areas, which also carry out programmes of monitoring and cleaning of invasive species.

**c** – Croatian Waters, MEPPPC - The Meteorological and Hydrological Service publishes annually the publication "Climate Monitoring and Assessment" which provides an assessment of the climate for the previous year at the global and regional level - based on the statement of the World Meteorological Organisation, and at the level of Croatia which is based on regular monitoring of climate change.

**d** – Pursuant to the Air Protection Act (Official Gazette 178/04), the quality of air in Croatia is systematically monitored at the local and national level (within the framework of the national monitoring programme carried out through "Systematic Research of the Adriatic Sea as the basis for sustainable development of Croatia" (shortened "Project Adriatic")

- The monitoring of freshwaters (surface and ground), waste waters as well as river deltas is being carried out within the framework of water management

- Sampling of ballastwater and sediment from floating and sailing objects at the request from MEPPPC, by Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Split and authorised institutes for public health. Preparation of the Report on Ballast Waters according to Ballast Water Reporting Form (BWRF) is done by Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development

- Monitoring of fouling on floating and sailing objects is under preparation

**e** – Indirect activities – setting up of a monitoring programme on soil quality is under preparation, which also includes defining of a set of soil degradation indicators;

**f** – Croatian waters – water use

The law proposal on soil protection has been prepared and sent for parliamentary adoption, which should, among other things, provide for *setting up monitoring* of soil quality, *restoration of degraded soils* and undertaking *preventive measures* in order to ensure its functions.

At county levels there are ongoing soil monitoring programmes. In addition, there are soil-monitoring programmes carried out by individual institutions (Forestry Institutes, Croatian Waters Ltd. limited company, faculties, etc.) as well as soil monitoring and status assessments carried out through many projects.

**22. ?** On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?

a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	X
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.

Some sectors have systems and mechanisms in place to collect and store data.

Currently, the exchange of data between various state authorities bodies and scientific and public institutions is rather poor. It is anticipated that the situation will improve along with the development of the information system, resulting in a high-quality mechanism of flow and exchange of data among relevant institutions as well as in better input and organisation of nature protection related data.

The State Institute for Nature Protection, within the framework of its activities, carries out inventorying and monitoring of species and habitats of Croatia.

The Croatian Environment Agency is working on developing a permanent soil monitoring programme for Croatia and it is responsible for monitoring, collecting and integrating data on inland waters status and quantities as well as data on the status of the sea, coastal area, mariculture and fisheries. It also collects data on air emissions and uses them as the basis for organising an integrated Environmental information system.

**23. ?** Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)

a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	

Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.

There is no developed and accepted set of biodiversity indicators in Croatia. The Croatian Environment Agency has taken charge of developing a proposal of a national set of indicators as well as coordinating the harmonisation procedure at the national level. In 2005, the proposals of the national sets of indicators related to specific themes were made, including biodiversity, air pollution, agro-environmental indicators, soil contamination and degradation indicators, inland waters-sea, waste-material flows. The bases required for the work of the commissions have been created.

**Box XLIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

### Decisions on Taxonomy

**24. ?** Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.

There are still no financial, human resources and technical capacities for undertaking such comprehensive activities.

**25. ?** Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.

**26. ?** Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.

<b>27. ?</b> Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) No, but steps are being considered	X
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

<b>28.*<sup>2</sup></b> Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	X
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	
Some effort has been done during the production of ' <i>Declaration of Vilm</i> '	

<b>29.*</b> Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	X
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
Systematic assessment of these needs has not been made. However, the responsible institution (the State Institute for Nature Protection) has become aware of the chronic lack of human resources and	

<sup>2</sup> The questions marked with \* in this section on Taxonomy are similar to some questions contained in the format for a report on the implementation of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Those countries that have submitted such a report do not need to answer these questions unless they have updated information to provide.

data through its first activities related to collecting of inventory data.  
Up to date no financial resources have been allocated for these activities.

**30. \*** Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.

Capacity-building mainly refers to Universities, Natural History Museums and Institutes as part of regular investment in state and public institutions in form of financial support to projects and work of institutions.

**31. \*** Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	No
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	No
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	X with marine

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.

Taxonomic support depends exclusively on a small number of experts associated with scientific institutions. Systematic stimulation of taxonomic support development by the state has not been carried out.

**FORESTS** – Some programmes have been initiated. Inventorying has never been carried out systematically. Actions and results are linked with individuals, projects or individual institutions in accordance with various interests. The results vary from simple checklists to complex monographs. Vegetation maps are available (in print, to scale 1:50 000, approximately 5% were published to scale 1:100 000, mainly of older date). Recently, funded by the state, the mapping of habitats has been completed, while the mapping of the cover is under way.

**SEA** – Some programmes have been initiated. Inventorying has never been carried out systematically. Actions and results are linked with individuals, projects or individual institutions in accordance with various interests. The results vary from simple checklists to complex monographs. With the state support, the mapping of habitats has been completed, also including marine habitats.

**INLAND WATERS** – No special support has been established. The work related to biodiversity of inland fish and invertebrates is a part of the activities of individual laboratories associated with Universities and Institutes. A part of data also refers to monitoring. Croatian Waters, limited company, is responsible for monitoring water quality in rivers and lakes through their network of monitoring units.

**MOUNTAINS** – Some activities are related to taxonomy, but they have not been planned specifically for that purpose. Monitoring and inventorying of mountain biodiversity is linked with individual museums, institutes and faculties. Most activities are related to the GEF project: Karst Ecosystem Conservation, which contains the target groups' inventory (covers approximately 4% of Croatian territory).

**AGRICULTURE** – Some activities are related to taxonomy, but they have not been planned specifically for that purpose. Inventorying of biodiversity in agriculture is linked with individual museums, institutes and faculties. The activities of the International Pollinator Initiative (IPI) and International Soil Biodiversity Initiative have not begun.

**PROTECTED AREAS** - Some activities are related to taxonomy, but they have not been planned specifically for that purpose.

**32. \*** Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?

a) No	X
b) Yes, for access and benefit -sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.



**Article 8 - *In-situ* conservation**  
**[excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)]**

**33. ?** On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.

The Nature Protection Act prescribes the integration of nature protection requirements and measures into all natural resources managements plans (forest, water, hunting ground management and into fishing bases) as well as into spatial plans. The implementation of these provisions is in its initial stage.

Traditional forestry practice in Croatia has managed to preserve the natural composition of the majority of forestlands. Additional biodiversity protection elements are being introduced into forest management through the compliance with FSC Principles and Criteria.

Through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, the conservation of biodiversity in water management is expected to become stronger.

Incentives are paid for traditional animal breeds, while the programme of incentives for the conservation of biodiversity of cultivated plant species is yet to take hold.

Protected areas will increase its surface with additional protection up to 9.4% of the national territory, and by establishing the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 the measures for protection and sustainable use will be implemented.

**34. ?** On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?

a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.

The new Nature Protection Act with related subordinate acts: Regulation on conservation of threatened and rare habitat types (Official Gazette 07/06), Regulation on protection of wild taxa (Official Gazette 07/06), Regulation on collecting self growing plants; forthcoming regulations: Regulation on the ecological network, Regulation on evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature, and Regulation on transboundary trade in protected species.

**35. ?** On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.

The impact of pollution on biodiversity elements has been viewed through the Environmental Protection Act and related subordinate acts as well as through Environmental Impact Assessment, but to an inadequate extent. It is expected that this issue will be addressed better by designating of the National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 for Croatia and by transposing provisions of the Habitats Directive, Article 6 into national legislation as well as by initiating to apply the mechanism of evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature.

See comment in 33.

**Box XLIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation

### Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Article 8 (a) to (e))

<b>36. Has your country established suitable time bound and measurable national-level protected areas targets and indicators? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No (please specify reasons)	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	X
c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.	
<p>The National Strategy (NSAP) has defined the need for collecting data related to currently protected areas, and it has also identified larger areas of particular value to be placed under protection.</p> <p>See Target 1.2 I) details</p> <p>The overarching legislation regulating protected areas is the Nature Protection Act which lays down the obligation of protecting, inventorying and monitoring the components of biological and landscape diversity as well as developing management plans for the majority of protected areas. Inventorying is under way, as well as development of management plans and monitoring plans for individual components.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture, in co-operation with public institutions in the nature protection sector, is currently working on developing the nature protection system of Croatia which should also contain minimum management standards as well as system development goals and indicators.</p>	

<b>37. Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.	
<p>Apart from the already protected area of Velebit Mt. complex, there are no such, intact areas under protection. Efforts have been made to place under protection the area of the Neretva River and its delta as well as the Mura -Drava -Danube river complex.</p>	

**38.** Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	X
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.

The proposal of National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 network gives prominence to marine and inland waters ecosystems. Most of the areas currently in the process of protection comprise of these very ecosystems.

See 37.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive will lead to more efficient protection of inland waters beyond protected areas.

**39.** Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.

**40.** Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.

Environmental impact assessment, prescribed by the Environmental Protection Act, is mandatory for the majority of projects and interventions in the environment, which might have adverse environmental impact. The Act is currently undergoing the process of review and harmonisation with EU legislation. All interventions and programmes undertaken in protected areas must have authorisation issued by the Ministry of Culture, which contains all specific nature protection measures (requirements). A consultation process is currently under way for the Regulation on evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature (implementation of Article 6 of EU Habitats Directive) in compliance with the Nature Protection Act, which prescribes this procedure for all the plans and programmes carried out in the protected areas and Ecological Network sites.

**41.** Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	X
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

A systematic GAP analysis has not been carried out. General evaluations have shown significant gaps (in terms of funding and human resources). The compensation and indemnification system is yet to be elaborated. Lack of harmonisation among laws - overlapping when planning protected areas - there is no planning in terms of financial basis.

More detailed GAP analysis has been conducted at the individual level, as a separate thematic study, during the preparation of the management plan for the protected area of the Kopacki rit Nature Park.

**42.** Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

See 41.

**43.** Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	X
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.

So far the financial aspect of planning and managing protected areas has been neglected. In addition, no attempt has been made to determine scientifically objective costs of the establishment and management of protected areas.

Croatia's nature protection system, developed by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with public institutions operating within nature protection sector, should contain both standards and criteria of financing the protected areas.

**44.** Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.

**Box XLV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- constraints encountered in implementation.

--

### Article 8(h) - Alien species

**45.** Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	X
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

**46. ?** Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

The programme for the implementation of preliminary activities related to monitoring of vascular flora's invasive taxa (2006) is under preparation. The list of invasive plant species is currently being prepared by Croatian Botanic Society, which is funded by the State Institute for Nature Protection. The list will consist of the so called "black list" of already known invasive species; "grey list" of species on which data is still deficient; and "white list" of species that are of small risk, but where precaution is needed.

Also, there is a need for organized data for efficient prevention of an inadvertent introduction of invasive species on the national level, and for assessment of alien species impact on biodiversity as well as for determining activities necessary to mitigate their negative impact.

In the National Report on Environment it is stated that although legislative background exists, there still is not enough thought given to this matter. There is yet no plan for National Strategy for Alien Species.

THE SEA

See Goal 6 - Target 6.1.-III)-details

The risk related to individual species (*Caulerpa taxifolia* and *C. racemosa*, *Amorpha fruticosa*, etc.) has been identified.

The adverse impacts of some other invasive species (*Ambrozia*, *Dreissena*, *Gambusia*, *Mungos*, etc.) have been also recognised, but systematic analysis has not been completed.

**47. ?** Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

See 46.

When introducing a new living species, the law requires a risk assessment to be carried out; however, the system is yet to take hold in all sectors. For all allochthonous species a permit for introduction into environment must be issued by the Ministry of Culture (Nature Protection Act, Articles 91, 92, 105, 107)

There is border control of introduction in which process sanitary inspection controls import, export and transit of consignments with animals, animal products and other consignments (of goods) containing ingredients of animal origin, semen for artificial insemination and fertilised egg-cells, setting eggs, animal feed also including agricultural foodstuffs and bedding, raw materials and additives for production of animal feed, consignments of veterinary medicines and other objects which might transmit a contagious disease or pose a threat to human and animal health.

**48. ?** In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	X
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	X Croatia-Slovenia - Italy → Ballast Water Working Group
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	



<b>49.?</b> Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.	
Principles of ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches are taken into consideration when the risk assessment of introduction alien species is carried out. See 47.	

<b>50.</b> Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
No	
No, but needs and priorities are being identified	X
Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.	
See 46.	

<b>51.</b> Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

<b>52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	X
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.	

<b>53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	
The cooperation between individual sectors has been established and there is an ongoing discussion related to this issue (hunting, maritime transport, forestry, nature protection, environmental protection). A continued and efficient coordination of all the sectors at the national level has not been established.	

<b>54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	X
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.	
A systematic collaboration with neighbouring countries and trading partners related to the protection from the introduction of alien animal and plant organisms, which might become invasive, have not been developed yet.	
The collaboration mostly refers to the Mediterranean (Adriatic) countries i.e. to monitoring and	

control of alien species in marine ecosystems introduced via ballast waters and fouling on ships. The prevention of the introduction of invasive plant species and pathogens or plant pests has been developed through collaboration with trading partners and neighbouring countries. Croatia is a member of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO).

**55.** Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)

a) No	X
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is not being carried out in Croatia yet, but it will be introduced through the adjustment of the system to the EU system. In individual cases an expert opinion is required.

**56.** Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.

See Target 6.1 III) and Target 10 III)

**Box XLVI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- constraints encountered in implementation.

--

**Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions**

**GURTS**

**57.** Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.

--

### Status and Trends

<b>58.</b> Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	
Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.	

### Akwé:Kon Guidelines

<b>59.</b> Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	

<b>60.</b> Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	

## Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

<b>61.</b> Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.	

<b>62.</b> Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.	

<b>63.</b> Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	

### Support to implementation

<b>64.</b> Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	N/A (See Box. XLVII)
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

<b>65.</b> Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?	
a) No	N/A
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	
See Box. XLVII	

<b>66.</b> Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	N/A
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	
See Box XLVII.	

#### Box XLVII.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>There are no indigenous communities in Croatia.</p> <p>The conservation of traditional knowledge of the rural population has been encouraged through numerous systematic and unsystematic projects at the county levels, also implemented by NGOs. Local self-government is democratically elected and operates within their constitutional powers.</p> <p>For a number of projects and programmes it is prescribed by various laws to provide for public insight and public debate all stakeholders and citizens of Croatia can participate in.</p>

## Article 9 - *Ex-situ* conservation

<b>67. ?</b> On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures adopted for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.	
<p><i>Ex-situ</i> conservation of particular plant species is carried out through botanical gardens throughout the country.</p> <p>Specific individual banks of seed material of indigenous wild taxa are kept by individual botanical gardens and scientific institutions in Croatia. There are no corresponding animal gene banks. The National Strategy for <i>Ex-situ</i> Conservation has not been developed.</p> <p>For indigenous varieties and breeds of domestic animals <i>ex-situ</i> conservation has been partially carried out via parent herds under control of the Croatian Livestock Centre and some public institutions administering protected areas. Croatian Kennel Club controls parent litters of indigenous dog breeds.</p> <p>There are <i>ex-situ</i> collections on several places in Croatia, containing materials, which are both autochthonous, and of foreign origin. Since there is no collective overview available, but rather each collection owner owns and controls his/her own data, it can not be said how much such material exists and of which plant species it is. The Commission for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which prepares the National programme for plant genetic resources in agriculture, provides for interconnecting and coordinating the work of all the participants and exercises control of collections safeguarded by individual Programme participants.</p> <p>Programmes for conservation of native varieties are carried out both at the local level and in some protected areas.</p>	

<b>68. ?</b> On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.	
<p>The Nature Protection Act regulates the authorisation of reintroduction as set out in Articles 91 and 93.</p> <p>The beaver is the only animal that has recently been reintroduced into the continental part of Croatia and according to first monitoring results its range is expanding.</p>	



**69. ?** On Article 9(d), has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species.

The Nature Protection Act addresses collecting and taking from nature the protected and threatened taxa in the following articles:

Article 97

(1) It shall be forbidden to pick, collect, destroy, cut or uproot the wild growing strictly protected plants and fungi.

Article 98

(1) By way of derogation from provisions of Article 97 of this Act, in the case of justified public interest and provided the derogation will not be harmful for survival of a particular population, the Ministry may authorize operations for the sake of:

- protection of plants, fungi and animals,
- preventing severe damages on crops, livestock, forests, fishponds, water and other forms of property,
- protection of public health and safety, air safety or other overriding public interests, and,
- research and education, repopulation, reintroduction and necessary reproduction.

(2) The Ministry may authorize, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, taking, holding and other reasonable use of certain strictly protected wild taxa in small quantities under strict control in order to maintain favourable status of the species.

This part of the Act refers to overall collecting of biological material from nature, whether it involves the whole plants, animals, fungi or some of their parts.

**Box XLVIII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity**

**70.?** On Article 10(a), has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making?

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being taken	
c) Yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integrating consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making.

Croatia's development is based on sustainability; therefore the considerations of sustainable use have been incorporated in most of its programmes and strategies in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, nature and environmental protection. Regional management and nature protection plans also encourage sustainable development and production as result of which many of their projects specifically focus on sustainable production and management of biological resources. There is an incentive policy concerning ecological production based on the use of traditional knowledge, especially while cultivating and processing indigenous varieties and breeds. The National Forestry Policy and Strategy, the Strategy of Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Ecological Agricultural Strategy place emphasis on sustainable development. The Implementation of these strategic documents has been only partially achieved.

The 1999 Strategy and Action Plan for the protection of biodiversity (NSAP) contains goals which correspond to those of the Convention. The Strategy is currently under review and it is anticipated that the same goals, even better adjusted ones, will be also contained in the new Strategy, which is due over the next two years. The process of harmonisation of Croatian legislation with the EU legislation has also been initiated, which involves screening of the state in various sectors, the nature protection sector being included.

However, according to the Croatia's Report on the Implementation of Agenda 21, not one county in Croatia, and only few municipalities/cities have so far implemented local Agenda 21 both as the process and document of sustainable development at the local level, which also includes sustainable use of spatial and biological resources.

**71.?** On Article 10(b), has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity.

Under the Nature Protection Act, in using of natural resources and in spatial planning it is obligatory to apply nature protection principles, measures and requirements. The incorporation of nature protection measures is mandatory for all natural resources management plans (forestry, hunting, freshwater fishery, water management) and the process of their integration has just started.

Traditional forestry practice in Croatia has preserved the natural composition of the most forestlands. Through the forest certification process forest management will be strengthened in terms of complete

protection of biodiversity.

The Forest Act (Official Gazette 140/05) lays the forestry sector under obligation of managing forests in compliance with pan-European criteria for the sustainable forest management which include:

1. maintenance and appropriate improvement of forest ecosystems and their contribution to the global carbon cycle,
2. maintenance of health and vitality of forest ecosystems,
3. maintenance and stimulation of production functions of the forest,
4. maintenance, preservation and appropriate improvement of biological diversity in the forest ecosystem,
5. maintenance and appropriate improvement of the protective functions in forest management (especially of soil and water),
6. maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions.

For forests situated within protected areas, a special programme of measures for management of forest ecosystems is produced. Such a programme is an integral part of the management plan for a protected area and it is implemented by the public institution administering the protected area and a company responsible for the forest management.

In addition to the Freshwater Fisheries Act, there is the Order on Protection of Fish and Other Marine Organisms (Official Gazette 101/02) which regulates closed fishing season and minimal landing sizes of fish below which fish can not be fished, processed and placed on the market. The most important ordinance based on the Marine Fisheries Act is the Ordinance on Commercial Marine Fisheries (OG 83/00, 101/02). The Ordinance on Commercial Marine Fisheries comprises numerous provisions concerning types and quantity of fishing tools and gear for each segment of commercial fisheries. It also contains provisions on fishing seasons and conditions under which commercial fisheries activities should be undertaken. The most recent amendment to this Ordinance (OG 101/02) contains a provision which bans trawling activities within the 2 NM from the coastal line, or above the isobate of 50 m, which is in accordance with the provisions of EEC 1626/94.

**72. ?** On Article 10(c), has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

Due to depopulation of rural areas and the shift in the method of management, traditional use of components of biodiversity has been neglected for a number of years. The State has been recently investing a lot into the development of these areas, but individual incentive projects have not been harmonised with the national nature protection policy. There are numerous projects funded from different sources, which promote traditional use of biological resources.

The level of public and political awareness of the importance of traditional use of biological resources for the conservation of biodiversity is not satisfactory.

**73. ?** On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.	

<b>74. ?</b> Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	X
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	
Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Legislative regulations provide for incentive measures, but the system of incentives has not yet been implemented in practice. The indicators of the state of biodiversity are also under development. The Croatian Environment Agency has taken charge of developing a proposal of a national set of indicators as well as coordinating the harmonisation procedure at the national level. In 2005, the proposals of the national sets of indicators related to specific themes were made, including biodiversity, air pollution, agro-environmental indicators, soil contamination and degradation indicators, inland waters -sea, waste -material flows.</p> <p>Based on the Act on State Subsidies for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Official Gazette 87/02, 117/03 82/04, 12/05) and the Act on State Subsidies (Official Gazette 140/05) as well as the Regulation on amendments of the regulation concerning the method and conditions of the implementation of the production stimulation scheme, the income support scheme and programme of conservation of Croatian native and protected breeds (Official Gazette 124/03, 159/03, 20/04, 42/04, 54/04, 91/04, 150/04), incentives are provided for autochthonous breeds carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management according to the selection of the Croatian Livestock Centre.</p>	

<b>75. ?</b> Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

In sectoral strategies in forestry, fisheries, environment, agriculture, and nature protection) sustainable use of biodiversity is the basic guideline of the development of our country.

The coordination of different sectors, essential for the implementation of these strategies, has not yet reached the satisfactory level. Specific link between sustainable use of natural resources and reduction of poverty has not been strongly emphasised.

**76. ?** Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	

Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

There is a legal initiative on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all sectors, also including private firms, but these provisions, in terms of implementation, are yet to take hold. It is partially implemented through environmental impact assessment and through the integration of nature protection requirements into management plans.

**77.** Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	X
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	

Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Although the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity have not been directly used, some principles and guidelines have already been translated into the national legislation and sectoral strategies.

**78.** Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

The direct transfer of technologies and financial resources for the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity has not been specified, however, through the implementation of strategic sustainable development guidelines, considerable funds are allocated and the use of new technologies is stimulated for the sake of sustainable use of biological resources.

See 77.

### Biodiversity and Tourism

**79. ?** Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	

Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.

For individual tourist (infrastructural) projects, this issue is addressed also within the environmental impact assessment, but there is no systematic assessment carried out at the national level.

The assessments of tourism on biodiversity have been envisaged on several tourist sites within the COAST project.

**80. ?** Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)

a) No	X
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	

Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.

There are educational programmes provided to tourism operators in certain protected areas. Likewise, some nongovernmental organisations, within their programmes, provide education addressing the need and importance of the conservation of biodiversity for sustainable development of tourism.

**81.** Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management? (decision VII/14)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.

Local governments and nongovernmental organisations carry out a number of projects related to the development of tourism based on the principles of sustainable use of resources.

**82.** Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)

a) No, but the guidelines are under review	X
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	

Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.

--

**Box XLIX.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

### Article 11 - Incentive measures

**83. ?** Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Nature Protection Act (Official Gazette 70/05), Article 61

It is prescribed to stimulate the conservation of endangered wild taxa, indigenous domesticated taxa and endangered habitat types, and to provide financial incentives and other incentive measures for the protection and conservation of biological and landscape diversity, and particularly for stimulating the management that recognizes and enforces biological and landscape diversity conservation measures not harmful to nature, as well as for granting compensations to legal and natural persons who owing to protection of biological and landscape diversity suffer from respective constraints or damages. The programme of incentives has been envisaged but it has not been established yet.

The programme of incentives – See 74.

Certain local governments provide incentive measures from their own budgets, for example Zagreb County implements measures to stimulate rural development through the conservation and planning of particularly valuable landscapes and breeding of autochthonous varieties and breeds.



**84. ?** Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.

**85. ?** Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

**86.** Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

There is no direct implementation of recommendations from Annex I, but some measures and principles contained in Annex I correspond with the existing and planned incentive measures.

**87.** Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)

a) No	X
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	

Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.

**Box L.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 12 - Research and training

**88. ?** On Article 12(a), has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components?

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Scientific and technical education in natural sciences has had a long tradition in Croatian Universities. In the last ten years there have been several faculties, which have introduced courses and programmes related to environmental protection and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity. Numerous projects provide funding for additional education and training of experts on these issues.

**89. ?** On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Since 2005, research relating to the conservation of biodiversity, use of alternative energy sources and others has been funded in a targeted way, through the Environment and Energy Efficiency Fund. Such research is conducted through programmes and projects, which are funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.

**90. ?** On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	

**Box LI.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

**Article 13 - Public education and awareness**

<b>91.</b> Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.	
<p>There is no formal implementation of measures recommended in Annex I; however some guidelines and measures contained in the Annex correspond to the measures that are being implemented.</p> <p>Apart from state institutions (ministries, other state authorities and services, institutes and agencies), a great deal of work is being done on education of the broader public by nature protection related institutions, schools, professional associations and numerous nongovernmental organisations. All of them, and particularly public institutions administering protected areas, have a broad range of educational programmes related to the conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>Education and public awareness are seen as strategic guidelines in many programmes, and above all in the National Strategy (NSAP) as one of the priority measures for the protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>The Nature Protection Act specifies that the central state administration body competent for education must provide the conditions for promoting education on nature protection as well as the Ministry competent for nature protection, counties, the City of Zagreb, other cities and municipalities. Nature protection has been introduced into official curricula in primary and secondary schools as a particularly emphasised component.</p>	

The State Institute for Nature Protection and legal entities vested with public authority must stimulate public informin on nature protection and conservation via mass communication media, lectures and editorial activity, and inform about natural assets with the view of their visiting for educational, sightseeing and recreational purposes.

**92.** Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.

See 91.

**93.** Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.

The system that would provide for a targeted permanent presence and promotion of biodiversity topics in media has not been established.

There is a years-long continuity of a dozen of professional journals, which promote various aspects of biodiversity (Priroda/Nature, Šumarski list/Journal of forestry of Croatia, Zemljopis/Geography, Meridijani/Meridians, Planinar/Mountaineer, Eko revija/Eco Journal, Ecologica and others).

State institutions competent for nature protection, environmental protection and physical planning actively communicate with media.

Protection of biodiversity is occasionally present in the media, usually in connection with an important achievement and/or an incident. Media reports are not always positively connotated. Owing to the lack of political support and a coherent national strategy, mass media are often not interested in covering nature protection issues.

The Croatian Environment Agency, State Institute for Nature Protection, Ministry of Culture, National and Nature Parks and other state institutions have informative web pages, organise various seminars, workshops and lectures on nature protection and its components. They also cooperate with nongovernmental organisations, which, through their own web pages and organised campaigns, promote the protection of biodiversity as well.

**94.** Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
Through the work and programmes of nature protection institutions, development agencies, schools, nongovernmental organisations and others.	

<b>95.</b> Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	
The activities, which are being carried out, are related to communication, education and public awareness, but they are primarily determined according to national needs and priorities which mainly correspond to the priorities of the Global Initiative.	

<b>96.</b> Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
Seminars and educational materials have been designed for workers in nature protection through various international projects, as well as through communication initiatives carried out by public institutions and nongovernmental organisations.	

<b>97.</b> Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
<p>The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports promotes exchange of students from all fields in general as well as applications for scholarships, but not in the extent it should. Individual experts from public institutions for nature protection and nongovernmental organisations also take part in the programmes of the exchange of experience.</p> <p>In the national strategies there is a strongly pronounced need for international cooperation. In that respect many scientific institutions and individuals collaborate with the institutions throughout the world. However, this cooperation is not very systematic and coordinated and has a very small number of useful impacts in the larger sense.</p>	

<b>98.</b> Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	X
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	
<p>Activities are undertaken related to communication, education and public awareness, which correspond to those activities proposed according to the CEPA strategy, but the direct implementation of the CEPA activities has not been carried out.</p>	

<b>99.</b> <b>?</b> Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	
<p>The state supports a strictly targeted initiatives. The example of such programmes is related to the conservation of populations of large carnivores and biodiversity of carp fishponds.</p>	

**100.** Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

To stop the decline in biodiversity by 2010. -This target is increasingly stressed, especially by the media.

**Box LII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

## Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

**101. ?** On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, legislation is still in early stages of development	
c) No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity.

The environmental impact assessment of certain proposed projects is mandatory under the Nature Protection Act but for the time being it does not cover the strategic environmental impact assessments.

Within the regulation on environmental impact assessment there is a list of interventions for which the environmental impact assessment is obligatory. The regulation has been to a larger part adjusted to the guidelines. The harmonisation of the act and appertaining regulation with the EU legislation is under way.

Currently not enough attention is given to the assessment of impact on biodiversity components. The implementation of prescribed measures for the conservation of biodiversity is most often not strictly controlled.

The Nature Protection Act prescribes the evaluation of admissibility of intervention to nature in the area of the National Ecological Network and in the protected areas. The preparation of the corresponding regulation is under way and its adoption is expected to happen this year.

The proposal for Strategic environmental Assessment is prepared in the framework of CARDS project.

The adjusting of the aforementioned legislative acts to the EU legislation is expected to result in an intensified examination of the impact of intervention on biodiversity.

**102. ?** On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a)No	
b)No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d)Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

See 101.



**103. ?** On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

The Republic of Croatia as a Party to the Barcelona Convention and its accompanying protocols, and within the framework of international cooperation (Croatian-Italian-Slovenian Trilateral Commission), the IMO and others, has an obligation, through certain agreements on proceedings and other acts, to respond and act in moments of disasters and distress. For example, in November 2005 Croatia signed with Italy and Slovenia the trilateral Agreement on the Subregional Emergency response Plan for the prevention, readiness for and reacting to sudden larger-scale pollutions of the Adriatic.

The UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context) - for signatory countries prescribes mechanisms of consultations and cooperation, in case when interventions in one country might have transboundary impact on the other country.

**104. ?** On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X See 103.
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

**105. ?** On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

The national eco-headquarters are established which operate pursuant to the Environmental Emergency Response Plan and the Marine Pollution Emergency Response Plan (NN 8/97) based on the Environmental Protection Act (Official Gazette 82/94 and 128/99)

Within the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management there is the National Water Protection Headquarters, which operates pursuant to the National Water Protection Plan based on the Waters Act (Official Gazette 107/95).

**106.** Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)

a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	X
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

**107.** On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	X

Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

The Nature Protection Act provides for penalties and indemnities for damage inflicted to a component of biodiversity but administrative and political measures have not been established completely. The Nature Protection Act prescribes indemnities (compensation rates) for damage inflicted to protected (threatened, rare, endemic) species, but the incurred damages are only exceptionally sanctioned.

**108.** Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

See 101.

Under the Nature Protection Act, nature protection measures and requirements issued by the competent Ministry are to be incorporated into all bases and spatial plans and into management plans.

**109.** Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.	
<p>Mainly through projects, which are being carried out or are yet to be carried out, and which are funded from international funds or the EU funds for technical assistance related to this issue.</p> <p>Through CARDS programme (Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction) – Guidelines and training on strategic environmental impact assessment -</p> <p>PHARE programme (State Institute for Nature Protection) – Implementation of NATURA 2000 in Croatia</p>	

**Box LIII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

## Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

<b>110. ?</b> Has your country endeavored to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Article 15?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the efforts taken by your country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.	
See Box LIV.	

<b>111. ?</b> Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties.	
See Box LIV.	

<b>112. ?</b> Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the type of measures taken.	
See Box LIV.	

**113. ?** In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.	
See Box LIV.	

**114.** Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)

a) No	X
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.	
See Box LIV.	

**115.** Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	
Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.	
See Box LIV.	

**116.** Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?

a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	X
<p>Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.</p>	
<p>See Box LIV.</p>	

**Box LIV.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>The issue of the access to genetic resources is relatively new to Croatia and so far it has been given little importance to. The funds available to address this issue are limited.</p> <p>Croatia has not ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>The genetic resources issue currently is being dealt with through the Nature Protection Act (collecting plant and animal material in general and for research purposes, etc.), the Plant Protection Act, the GMO Act and through the Regulation on conservation and use of plant genetic resources. The issue of intellectual property and patents is regulated by the Intellectual Property Act.</p> <p>Given that Croatia is currently in the process of harmonisation with the EU and it is reviewing and adjusting its legislation and strategies to European legislation and guidelines contained in international treaties and conventions to which Croatia is a signatory, it will be inevitable to include the issues of the use and transfer of genetic resources and to regulate them by feasible laws at the national level.</p>

## Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

**117. ?** On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.	

**118. ?** On Article 16(3), has your country taken measures so that Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

**119. ?** On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

**Box LV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation**

**120.** Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.



--

<b>121.</b> Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.	

<b>122.</b> Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.	

<b>123.</b> Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.	

**124.** Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.

**125.** Has your country taken any of the measures specified under Target 3.2 of the programme of work as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.

**Box LVI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

### Article 17 - Exchange of information

**126. ?** On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

**The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

**127. ?** On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?

a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

**Box LVII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

### Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

**128. ?** On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

The awareness on the need for international cooperation in science related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is getting ever more developed in Croatia. Various ways of cooperation are being encouraged by state institutions (for the most part by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports), scientific institutions, the very scientists and scientific organisations.

The most frequent ways of cooperation include: contacts (bilateral) between faculties, scientific institutes, organisations and individual experts and amateurs; participating in projects (national and international); international exchange of students and scientists; professional development abroad; organising and co-organising scientific workshops, conferences and other scientific gatherings.

Funding is mainly provided from the state budget, various international funds, and to a lesser extent from nongovernmental organisations and other sponsors.

The cooperation is mostly based on individual cooperation of scientists and their teams with the corresponding teams abroad.

The accession process to the EU – the institutionalisation of international cooperation is anticipated within Technical and scientific cooperation and in the process of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**129. ?** On Article 18(4), has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention?

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	
c) Yes, methods are in place	

**130. ?** On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	

Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

In general, the joint cooperative research programmes are promoted but the emphasis is not specifically on research with such an objective.

**131.** Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	X
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

***The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**132.** Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	

Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

**133.** Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

**134.** Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

**Box LVIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

**135. ?** On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

**136. ?** On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

### Box LIX.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- constraints encountered in implementation.

--

## Article 20 – Financial resources

### Box LX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.

<p>a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries</p>	<p>There are no targeted financial resources allocated to the implementation of the Convention except for budgetary allocations by national, regional and local level of government for financing the overall nature protection.</p> <p>Within the framework of financing the programme activities of institutions, individual projects, whose objectives correspond to those of the Convention, are also funded. regional</p> <p>In 2006 budgetary allocations by the national government for all the institutions operating within the nature protection system (the Ministry of Culture's Directorate for Nature Protection, the State Institute for Nature Protection, Public Institutions administering national and nature parks) and for their programmes and projects amount to HRK 74,256,270 in total or 0.07% of the state budget.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management allocates approximately € 1.5 million per year for indigenous breeds of domestic animals through the incentives for the conservation of biodiversity.</p> <p>The incentives for ecological agriculture are also paid amounting to € 400 per hectare.</p> <p>Apart from the aforementioned, state budgetary funds are allocated for participating in internationally funded projects among which are also those referring to the implementation of individual programmes of the Convention.</p>
<p>b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)</p>	<p>Donors' resources are only partly linked to the Convention.</p> <p>The Environment and Energy Efficiency Fund (founded in 2004) started funding programmes and projects in nature protection since 2005.</p> <p>In 2005 the Fund allocated approximately HRK 2,700,000 and in 2006 approximately HRK 3,082,500 for funding projects from the field of the protection of biological and landscape diversity.</p>
<p>c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)</p>	<p>Partly related to the Convention</p> <p>The donors are the governments of the EU countries: Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria; in the last 5 years the allocated financial resources have been estimated to € 3.0 million.</p>
<p>d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)</p>	<p>Partly related to the Convention</p> <p>Since 2001 the EU pre-accession funds, for example the LIFE III Programme (CORINE Landcover database for Croatia – € 499,479.00; CRO-NEN € 375,095.00; Wolf Management Plan – € 418,200.00; Lonjsko polje – € 347,000.00 etc.), Emerald – € 30,000; CARDS Programme – € 500,000.00; Project</p>



	<p>Institutional Strengthening of the State Institute for Nature Protection), PHARE Programme, INTERREG, etc.</p> <p>The total financial resources realised through regional channels have been estimated to approximately € 10,000,000.</p>
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	<p>Due to the lack of unified monitoring system and to the division of competence of several ministries it is not possible to get an overview of the total financial resources allocated since 1992.</p> <p>Sources of funding: GEF – through the UNEP and the UNDP</p> <p>Two of the largest projects over the last ten years, COAST and KEC</p>
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	<p>Certain private companies like larger banks and larger corporation (for example Zagrebacka banka, INA, LURA, Ford, PODRAVKA, etc.) provide smaller donations for funding targeted projects.</p>
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	

**Box LXI.**

Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes that have been established in your country.

**137. ?** On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	X
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

See Box LX.  
See question 74.

***The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**138. ?** On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

***The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION***

**139. ?** On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes	X

**140. ?** Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)

a) No	X
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.

There are no central records of financial resources directed to support the conservation of biodiversity but rather each institution keeps track of its own financial state. Most often it is very hard to draw a line between funds, which are earmarked for biodiversity and those used to finance nature protection in general.

Sources of funding include state budget, various international funds and programmes, private donations and other. However, there is no mechanism for collecting such data in one place, which makes it difficult to get a complete picture.

**141. ?** Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)

a) No	X
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.

**142.** Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	

Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.

**143.** Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	

**144.** Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	
The integration of biological diversity has been achieved at the legislative level (it has been integrated into strategic documents) in sectors of agriculture, forestry, hunting, fisheries, environmental protection, nature protection, marine, etc.); however, in most of the sectors, no operational mechanisms for implementation have been established.	

***The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**145.** Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	

e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	
/	

**The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

**146.** Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans	X		
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	X		

c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)		<b>X</b>	
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)	<b>X</b>		
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)		<b>X</b>	
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	<b>X</b>		
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			

- a) National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (= The First Report to the Convention) – GEF /World Bank ; 1997- 1999
- b) GEF NCSA Project (Capacity Assessment and Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Conventions: CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD): - GEF/UNEP
- d) CRO-NEN –LIFE III; Cro-Wolf – LIFE III; KEC -GEF/World bank; COAST –UNDP/GEF; the Velebit Green Belt - WWF/'Zelena akcija' NGO ; CRO-WET - RAMSAR small grants;
- f) SEEDNET
- g) Institutional Strengthening of the State Institute for Nature Protection - CARDS,  
CRO-WOLF - LIFE III  
CRO-NEN - LIFE III  
KEC (Karst Ecosystems Conservation) - GEF /World Bank  
CRO-WET (Development of the Croatian Wetland Inventory)
- h) Preparation of the Third National Report on Biodiversity for the Republic of Croatia – UNDP/GEF
- i) Development of Ecological Network along the River Sava – IUCN (BBI Matra, before PIN\_Matra – the programme of the Dutch Government)  
The Mura -Drava Biosphere Reserve - NGOs,WWF  
Integral Management of the Neretva and Trebišnjica basins - GEF/Ramsar
- j) Agricultural Environmental Programme (AEP) – funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the pilot project carried out in the Žumberak - Samoborsko gorje Nature Park) - SEEDNET
- k) UNEP/GEF – Development of National Biosafety Framework
- l)/
- m)/

**Box LXII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## D. THEMATIC AREAS

**147.** Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	3	1	3	3	N/A	1
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	3	2	3	3	N/A	2
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	2	3	2	N/A	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	3	2	2	2	N/A	2
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	2/3	3	2	N/A	2
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	3	1	3	2	N/A	2
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	2	0	2	2	N/A	1
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	3	3	2	2	N/A	2
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	3	2	2	2	N/A	2
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	3	2	2	3	N/A	1
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	3	1	2	2	N/A	2



(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	2	2	2	N/A	2
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	1	2	2	N/A	2
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	3	3	3	3	N/A	3
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	3	2	2	2	N/A	1
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	3	2	3	3	N/A	2
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	3	3	3	3	N/A	3
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	2	2	2	2	N/A	1
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	3	1	2	2	N/A	1
(u) Poverty	3 N/A	N/A 1	N/A 3	N/A 1	N/A	N/A 1
(v) Population pressure	2	2	3	2	N/A	2
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	3	2	3	3	3 N/A	2
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	3	2	3	2	2 N/A	2
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	3	2	3	3	3 N/A	2
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	3	3	3	3 N/A	3
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	2	1	1 N/A	1
(bb) Others (please specify)						

### Inland water ecosystems

<b>148.</b> Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans		X		
b) Wetland policies and strategies	X			
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	X			
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	X			
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work				

<b>149.</b> Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4 )	
a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	X
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	
<p>Within the National Strategy (NSAP) all the targets have been set up and their priorities established, however, the organisations or institutions responsible for implementation have not been identified nor have the targets been incorporated into the specified time framework.</p> <p>Through the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, a significant improvement in water management is expected.</p>	

**150.** Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4 )

a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	

Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.

Throughout the National Strategy (NSAP), both the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention are equally treated so that joint goals are reflected through all the actions related to aquatic and wetland habitats.

See 149.

**151.** Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4 )

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?		X	
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?		X	
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?	X		
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?			X
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?		X	

Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.

- b) Scientific institutions carry out hydrogeological and biological research but in an unsystematic way. *Hrvatske vode*. (Croatian Waters Ltd.), has monitoring programmes, which include monitoring of biological characteristics of water.
- d) Scientific institutions carry out hydrogeological and biological research but in an unsystematic way.

**152.** Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4 )

a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	X
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	

Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

**Box LXIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Marine and coastal biological diversity

### General

<b>153.</b> Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	X
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	X
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	X
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	X
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>a) According to the NSAP: the Elafiti and Lastovo archipelagos. After the review of the NSAP, additional planned protections are anticipated.</p> <p>b) Brijuni National Park, Mljet National Park; management plans for these protected areas are under development</p> <p>c) Projects of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split - Adriamed and others</p> <p>d) The World Bank loan – within the Project Adriatic, the Coastal Cities Water Pollution Control Project is done, which includes construction, modernisation, reconstruction and improvement of water drainage system and purification of communal wastewaters from settlements along the Adriatic coast and islands.</p> <p>e) NAP within the framework of SAP – reduction of land-based sources of pollution = d), solid waste – county disposals are under construction</p> <p>f) It is contained in the legislative framework but control and implementation are not at the satisfactory level</p>	

### Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

**154.** Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative

arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	X
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	
<p>The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICMZ) plan does not yet exist for the Croatian coast and islands. One successful attempt was done in 1996, when METAP funded the Environment Management Plan for Cres-Lošinj archipelago. However, it was never implemented. The Croatian Government, the former Ministry for Environmental Protection and Physical Planning (MEPP) and former Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAF) initiated development of the Master plan for ICZM based on the EU strategy for ICZM, adopted on September 27, 2000 (COM/2000/547).</p> <p>The Project "Integrated coastal zone management for Croatia with special focus on aquaculture" – carried out by the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. In 2005 the pilot project "Adriatic sea integrated coastal areas and river basin management system pilot project" (ADRICOSM) within the Adriatic Ionian Initiative was completed.</p>	

<b>155.</b> Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?	
a) No	X
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.	

## Marine and Coastal Living Resources

**156.** Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?

a) No	X
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

The Red List of Marine Fish is in the process of being prepared and the preparation of the Red Data Book is also under way. The overall status assessment has not yet been done.

Posidonia beds have been recognised as the key ecosystems for the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Some of the key threats for the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems have been identified: invasive species *Caulerpa*, excessive fishing, trawling, and the lack of fishing free zones, inefficient control and enforcement of law related to marine fisheries sector).

### PROJECTS

- The Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split – PELMON Project (Assessment of Distribution and Abundance of Small Pelagic Fish Populations in the Adriatic Sea), MEDUZA Project (Collaborative international research on gelatinous zooplankton of the Adriatic Sea), MEDITS Project (Mediterranean International Bottom Trawl Survey), DemMon (Monitoring and Management of Demersal Resources along the Eastern Adriatic Coast – Croatian Territorial Waters)
- Adriamed (FAO)
- Project Adriatic - Croatian National Monitoring Programme (Systematic research of the Adriatic Sea as the basis of sustainable development of Croatia)
- UNDP/GEF COAST Project (Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Dalmatian coast through greening coastal development)

Within the framework of the UNEP/MAP Regional Centre for Special Protection Areas (SPA/RAC) of the UN Environment Programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Biodiversity Strategy for Mediterranean countries (SAP BIO) and five action plans have been developed.

**157.** Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs			X	
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				X
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments				X
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				X
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				X
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				X
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				X
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				X
j) Others (please specify below)			X	

Please elaborate on ongoing activities.

a) The only species that forms coral reefs in the Adriatic Sea is *Cladocora caespitosa* and they are subject of research of the laboratory for marine biology at the Faculty of Science. The ecology of that species in the Adriatic has been thoroughly elaborated in one doctoral dissertation. The reefs composed of this species cannot be compared with tropical coral reefs in terms of their size and biodiversity. The largest reef of this species in the Adriatic as well as in the Mediterranean Sea can be found within the Mljet National Park. It is currently threatened by an increasing spread of the invasive species *Caulerpa racemosa*.



The research continues as well as monitoring of individual sites.

j) Within the programme of cleaning of invasive *Caulerpa* species, there are intensive cleaning activities of *Caulerpa racemosa* in the area of the big reef in the Mljet National Park.

### Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

**158.** Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	X
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	X
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	X
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.

Protected are: Brijuni National Park, Kornati National Park, Mljet National Park, Telašćica Nature Park; the Lastovo Archipelago Nature Park is under preventive protection and its founding is planned in 2006.

## Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	X statutory for all fish-farms
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	X Based on research of the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split-Dalmatian County and Zadar County have identified sites where mariculture can be sustainable
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed from nature.	X
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	X – only indigenous species are used
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>c) through county physical plans</p> <p>d) all except tuna is bred</p> <p>k) there are legal provisions regulating allowable gears, however law enforcement is not at the satisfactory level – Marine Fisheries Act</p>	

### Alien Species and Genotypes

**160.** Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.

a) No	X
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	/
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.

The ballast water control system is being developed.

**Box LXIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

### Agricultural biological diversity

<b>161. ?</b> Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	X
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.	
In the process of harmonisation of the Croatian agricultural legislation with the EU Directive on Rural Development, an agricultural-environmental programme will be prepared as well as other programmes and measures for the conservation of agricultural biodiversity. There are already incentives for indigenous breeds are paid.	

<b>162. ?</b> Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	

### Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
<b>163.</b> Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	

The indigenous breeds have been listed, while for the indigenous plant varieties the process has started.

There is the Regulation on conservation of plant and genetic resources, which regulates the preparation of the National Programme for Plant, and Genetic Resources in Agriculture.

Inventorying of plant and genetic resources has been initiated.

**164.** Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?

a) No	X
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).

**165.** Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No	X
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

**166.** Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No	X
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on observations.

See 161.

### Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

**167.** Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) No  | X |
| b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified                           |   |
| c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)          |   |
| d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below) |   |

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

### Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

**168.** Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) No  | X |
| b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity) |   |

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

Systematic capacity building of farmers has not yet been established. Capacity building for farmers and local communities has been carried out through several projects (for example the projects "Ecological Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development" and "Introducing Agricultural-Environmental Programme for Croatia").

**169.** Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	

**170.** Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	X
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

There are incentives for indigenous breeds.  
See 161.

#### Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

**171.** Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

**172.** Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	

Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.

**173.** In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

N/A

**Box LXV.**

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.



**Box LXVI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

--

**Forest Biological Diversity  
General**

**174.** Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?

a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	X
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	

Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes

The National Forestry Policy and Strategy (NFPS), as an equivalent of the national forestry programme, was adopted in 2003. Within the framework of the NFPS, no special programme for the conservation of forest biodiversity was developed, however the list of strategic actions was made containing many elements of the Convention's work programmes.

As a commitment deriving from the Forests Act (Official Gazette 140/05), the preparation of the National Forestry Programme is under way, in which an important part will refer to the conservation of forest biodiversity.

According to the NSAP, the following strategic objectives related to conservation of forest ecosystems have been established:

**The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity (NSAP)**

**4. Strategic objective – forests**

Considering the well-preserved biological diversity of Croatia's forests in European proportions it is to maintain the existing state at any rate and seek to improve the same by incorporating additional

measures for the protection of biological diversity of forests.

**Strategic guidelines**

1. to base forest management on the principles of natural composition and natural renewal accompanied by a structure that facilitates natural development of all members of the living community
2. to prevent decreasing of forest areas and to limit strictly all construction works in the same
3. to increase forest areas in those regions of Croatia where the density of woodland is below 10%
4. in various forest communities to ensure permanent protection of the most preserved subnatural forests and allow their natural development by creating conditions for the development of secondary virgin forests. Within thus protected secondary virgin forests it is to establish genetic forest reserves for conservation of genetic funds of the flora, microflora and fauna
5. to determine by law specific measures for improvement of biological diversity of forests, particularly the keeping of dead standing trees when felling and prolongation of rotation cycles of main tree species
6. to determine salvage felling procedures in detail, separately in commercial and in protected forests
7. to work out special management measures for forests pertaining to various categories of protected nature parts
8. to establish an integrated monitoring network to observe the negative trends in lowland forests highly affected by withering and changes; a network that is similar, but used for another type of monitoring is to be established for highland and subalpine forests
9. to conduct research of rare species with decreasing population trends (field's elm, sweet chestnut, fruit-tree species)
10. to organise forest areas so as to enable their incorporation into the European network of forest ecological systems according to the EECONET concept and to pay particular attention to transboundary forests
11. to take special care of animal species at the top of the feeding pyramid (predators) that have traditionally been in conflict with human interests, especially of hunters and cattle-breeders (wolf, lynx, etc.).

**Box LXVII.**

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.

The most important tools from the NFPS document related to conservation of forest biodiversity refer to conservation of natural composition of forests and preservation of habitat stability, forest health monitoring and strengthening productive capacity of forest ecosystems.

The forestry sector in Croatia has not yet undertaken targeted actions to realise the goals of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity; likewise for the time being there is no inventory of woodland key habitats.

The most important measures relating to conservation of forest biodiversity are contained in the NFPS through the following groups of activities:

1. To establish criteria and methods for the assessment of habitat condition and preservation
2. To establish criteria for the decision-making process relating to forest-management measures
3. To establish criteria for functional forest categorisation
4. To provide financial support for adequate silviculture in defined functional forest categories
5. To support certification of forest management and timber products and elaboration of a National Standard
6. Undertake an inventory of current habitat condition (based on GIS and defined criteria) and establish sample plots to monitor changes in the habitat condition
7. Support measures to improve seed husbandry and nursery production
8. To improve stand structure by the introduction of rare autochthonous species

**Box LXVIII .**

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

Capacity building is present through the forest certification process with local communities participating in declaring themselves about forest management plans; these plans also define the relationship between social, ecological and economic functions of forests. Local communities decide on future purpose of unafforested forestland through the system of physical planning.

**Box LXIX.**

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

Some of the current efforts refer to:

1. starting up new Nature and Environmental Protection Studies within higher education in forestry
2. capacity-building through forest certification programme and development of national forest certification standards
3. education and informing of forestry experts in connection with Natura 2000 and ecological network related projects
4. implementing the project National forest inventory for which it is planned to also include the elements of forest biodiversity
5. founding of Forestry Extension Service to support capacity-building of private owners for sustainable forest management, including conservation of biodiversity

**Box LXX.**

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

## Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
<b>175.</b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>Traditional forestry practice in Croatia has preserved natural composition of most forestlands. Additional elements of biodiversity protection are being introduced into forest management through meeting forest certification commitments.</p> <p>In order to achieve multipurpose and sustainable utilisation of forests, they are classified and organised by ecological and economical principles thus optimising (balancing) their ecological, economic and social potential.</p>	

<b>176.</b> Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions</p> <p>The NFPS identifies basic threats to forest ecosystems, the most significant being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Converting of forestland into construction and/or agricultural land</li> <li>2. Deforestation and fragmentation of forest plots</li> <li>3. Forest fires</li> <li>4. Uncontrolled felling in private forests</li> <li>5. Forest degradation and vitality reduction due to changes in water regime and ground water regime</li> </ol> <p>In order to reduce or eliminate the aforementioned risks, forest owners have an obligation to undertake special measures as prescribed by the Forest Act (Official Gazette 140/05).</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

The threat analysis of the components of Croatian flora has shown that plant forest species account for a very small percentage of threatened species, which indicates a good condition of forest ecosystems or naturalness of forest ecosystems in Croatia. The analysis of threat to fauna and fungi presents a slightly different picture, which is a result of the practice of removing old, hollow, rotten and lying trees in the process of forest management.

**177.** Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>See 176.</p> <p>Forest ecosystems are being protected by various degrees of protection. Apart from forests within national parks, other forests that are exempted from economic use include forests of special purpose (strict and special reserves of forest vegetation, park forests, seed plantations) and protective forests (forests on slopes with the angle of inclination bigger than 45 degrees).</p> <p>In the categories of nature parks and important landscapes, forests are managed under special nature protection requirements.</p> <p>In state forests (over 2 mil ha) biodiversity is being specially protected by fulfilling forest certification commitments.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**178.** Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p>

		<p>Traditional forestry practice in Croatia has preserved the natural composition of most forestlands. Additional elements of protection of biodiversity are being introduced into forest management through forest certification process.</p> <p>In order to raise awareness on protection of forest ecosystems, there is ongoing education carried out at the national and local level through lectures, free distribution of magazine <i>Hrvatske šume (Croatian Forests)</i>, radio show sponsorships and other.</p> <p>The new Forest Act (Official Gazette 140/05) has established a Forestry extension service to provide expert and technical assistance to private forest owners also concerning the aspect of conservation of private forests' biodiversity.</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>179.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		
N/A		

**Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment**

**180.** Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>The principles of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity have been successfully integrated into legislation and strategic documents relating to nature protection and forestry.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**181.** Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p>
b) No	N/A	<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

N/A

The majority of Croatia's forests are state-owned and they are managed by the state company (81%) thus resulting in a minimal loss of forests; in the last 200 years state forests are managed in a way as to ensure the maintenance of a total surface under forests. The Forest Act contains a liability instrument to compensate for forestlands (by afforestation or acquisition of other forest) in the case forestlands had to be converted for the sake of the prevailing public interest.

See 178.

<b>182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Through numerous projects and programmes of state institutions and nongovernmental organisations there are ongoing efforts made to advance the level of awareness on forest biodiversity, values of forest ecosystems and the need for their conservation. improve		

<b>Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring</b>		
<b>183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Regular inventorying of forests resources is undertaken every year on 1/10 forest surface. In this process forests are classified according to ecological-management types, development stage and tree structure. The forests classification in terms of determining forest parts of high value, so called Woodland Key Habitats, has not yet been undertaken.		



**184.** Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Trends of forest biodiversity in state-owned forests are monitored by the ecological service of a forestry company, while the results are published in annual reports and professional forestry journals.

Monitoring system in accordance with NCPFE indicators (= criteria of ministerial conferences on protection of European forests) has not yet been developed.

**185.** Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  1. holding public lectures 2. publishing and distributing free of charge professional forestry newspapers 3. web pages 4. sponsoring a regular radio show
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**186.** Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Box LXXI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

### Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

<b>187.</b> Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2 )	
No	
Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
N/A	

<b>188.</b> Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
No	
Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.	
N/A	

<b>189.</b> Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
No	
Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	
N/A	

### Programme Part A: Assessment

**190.** Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) No  |  |
| b) No, but assessment is ongoing   |  |
| c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)         |  |
| d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below) |  |

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

N/A

### Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

**191.** Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) No  |  |
| b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below) |  |
| c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below) |  |

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

N/A

<b>192.</b> Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.	
N/A	

**Box LXXII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

**Mountain Biodiversity**

<b>Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing</b>	
<b>193.</b> Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
A considerable part of mountain areas has already been placed under some protection categories pursuant to the Nature Protection Act (highland and mountain areas account for approximately 62% of protected areas). By introducing the ecological network and Natura 2000 it is anticipated that the surface of mountain areas under some measures of protection or management will increase which	

will result in both better control and more efficient conservation of biodiversity.

Forest mountain areas are in relatively good state since the traditional forestry policy and practice in Croatia have preserved the natural composition of forest communities.

Management plans for protected mountain areas are under development and nature protection measures are being incorporated into all relevant sectoral plans.

The major threat to biodiversity of mountain ecosystems is the loss of anthropogenically conditioned habitats such as grasslands due to the long-standing trend of depopulation of these areas as well as from the increased interest in exploitation of mineral raw materials and water supplies.

Due to the war, many mountain areas have been deserted, and many of them are still contaminated by mines, which presents a major problem in research on and assessment of these areas and their biodiversity.

**194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?**

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

**Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity**

The programme of strengthening public institutions administering protected areas has been ongoing since 2000: development of human resources, developing management plans, protection of specific habitats and species.

See Goal 1, Target 1.1., IV)

**195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?**

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

**Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems**

1. Intersectoral communication of agriculture, forestry, hunting and water management
2. Education of local population and various interest groups (foresters, hunters, schools)
3. Implementing projects which stimulate traditional sustainable use of mountain biological resources (agriculture, cattle breeding, traditional crafts)

<b>196.</b> Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources	
Stimulating traditional forms of agriculture, cattle breeding and other traditional crafts.	

<b>Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing</b>	
<b>197.</b> Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	X
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.	
Pursuant to the Nature Protection Act for protected mountain areas spatial plans are being developed containing principles of sustainable use and mountain biodiversity. Spatial plans for only three protected areas have been adopted so far: the Ucka Nature Park, the Paklenica National Park and the Risnjak National Park.	

<b>198.</b> Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	X
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,  
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

**199.** Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

- Inventorying and Monitoring Programme carried out by the State Institute for Nature Protection.
- Inventoring and monitoring through the projects of Karst Ecosystems Conservation (KEC) and Building up the National Ecological Network (CRO-NEN).
- In cooperation with the Division of Biology of the Faculty of Science and the Biology Students' Association (BIUS) the field research on biodiversity of individual mountain areas was conducted (inventorying, monitoring).
- Public entities administering large protected areas (mountain ecosystems) carry out inventorying and monitoring as well.

**200.** Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

- Standard support through national budgetary funding of institutions and co-funding of international projects related to this issue.
- The projects of inventorying of many areas, including in a large part mountain areas as well, are starting through the introduction of Natura 2000.
- The lack of expert staff, especially taxonomists, presents a general problem in Croatia.
- The approach integrating research, technical and scientific cooperation has been implemented through the KEC project.



<b>201.</b> Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems	

**Box LXXIII .**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

**E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

<b>202.</b> Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
No	
Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	
? The 4th Intergovernmental "Biodiversity in Europe" Conference - (February 2006)	
? Participation of nongovernmental organisations in the Convention Programme activities (Programme of Work on Protected Areas – Dinaric Arc countries)	

<b>203.</b> Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
No	X
Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.	

***The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

<b>204.</b> Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	

<b>205.</b> Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
No	
Yes	X

<b>206.</b> Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)	
No	
Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.	
The GEF/UNEP NCSA Project: Capacity assessment and action plan for implementation of the UN Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity, Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention to Combat Desertification, Barcelona Convention – Protocol on Special Protected Areas of the Mediterranean and the Landscape Diversity).	

**Box LXXIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

### Box LXXV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.